

Scrapbook

Book 0

Restaurateurs take sanitation course

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — About two dozen food service managers are completing an eight-week course on food service preparation designed to standardize such techniques throughout the county and the state.

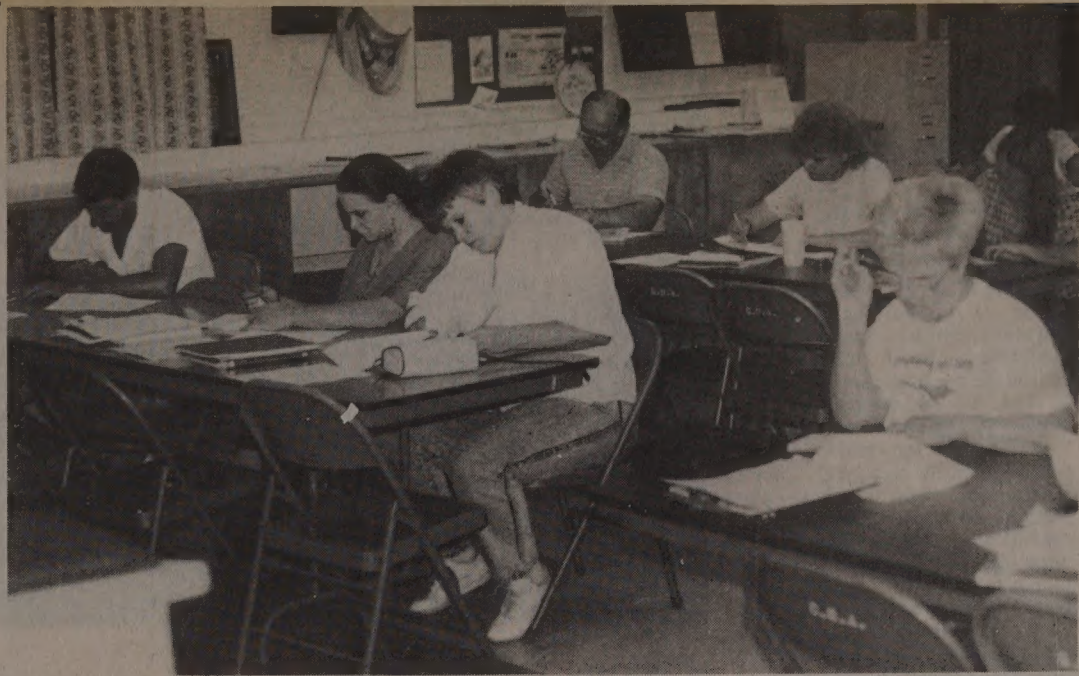
"It's the wave of the future," said Nancy Simonds-Ruderman, a certified food sanitation instructor who teaches the class. Simonds-Ruderman explained that the course, sponsored by the Tri-Town Health Department, is an attempt to establish standards of food preparation for every food service business in the area.

The state does have food service and sanitation standards, she said, but has no way to certify that food service facilities have people trained in those methods on staff.

The eight-week certification class drew food service professionals from Stockbridge, West Stockbridge and Lee, which are served by Tri-Town, as well as Great Barrington.

Simonds-Ruderman said that the problem is not that area establishments have substandard facilities or methods of service and preparation, but that there are few guidelines set up for individuals to follow.

Max Bookless, an agent for the Tri-Town Health Department, also pointed out that the county is seeing more restaurants run by people from foreign countries. These establishments, he said, need guidance on local standards



Derek Gentile / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Food service managers take a test as part of an eight-week course in Lee last week.

for basic sanitation and safety.

The course is voluntary this year, Simonds-Ruderman said, but pending state legislation could make it mandatory as soon as next year. Tri-Town had a workshop on the subject in July and attendance was so great that a class was started in August.

The classes teach such subjects as food-borne illnesses, food bacteria, different levels of cleanli-

ness and sanitation and how to set up and maintain a sanitary food service area.

Simonds-Ruderman said that the course is aimed at food service managers. The pending legislation would mandate that an establishment must have at least one certified food service professional on the premises for every shift the business operates.

"There's such a high turnover

of workers in this business that the goal here is to have a manager who is certified who can teach the techniques to new employees," she said.

The course has been taught at Berkshire Community College for several years, Simonds-Ruderman said. This is the first time in the county that a public health organization like Tri-Town has offered it.

B2 — The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, September 25, 1990

Neighbors want Lee Oil to move

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen last night voted to order the owner of Lee Oil Co. on Ferncliff Avenue to cease his propane storage operation there pending the awarding of a permit for that part of the business.

The decision came in the wake of a public outcry spearheaded by neighbors. On Sept. 11, residents of the street were evacuated from their homes for about 90 minutes when a Lee Oil truck carrying propane sprung a leak.

Last night, residents presented the board with a petition signed by about 80 residents asking that the business be removed entirely from the area.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont told them that owner William F. Miller had a right to be at the location, as the street is zoned for industrial use.

But Fire Chief Robert J. Driscoll reported that he could find no evidence that a permit for propane storage has been filed with the town. Miller has a truck and a 100-gallon tank on the site, both of which are used to store the fuel.

Miller said he did not believe he needed a permit for the truck, which is considered a cargo vehicle and under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Trans-

portation. He added that he would apply for a permit for the tank.

Driscoll replied that Miller might not need a permit for the truck but that he did need a permit for the land upon which the truck was parked. Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully agreed.

Residents unconvinced

Later, Scully said the Selectmen had no choice but to order Miller to park the truck elsewhere, even if he could not find a permitted parking place.

Miller said only a half-gallon of propane spilled from the truck, adding that it is not considered explosive except under certain conditions.

"People assume that because it's a gas it's explosive," he said. "It's not. Under some conditions, you can put a match out in it. There are 900 homes in Lee with propane. It's safer than gasoline."

Residents were unmoved, however, and Miller was asked why the neighborhood was evacuated if the fuel was considered safe.

"I don't know. Ask the fire chief," Miller replied.

Driscoll said he evacuated the neighborhood because "I felt there was a potential danger, and I wanted to be safe instead of sorry."

Lee student wins \$4,000 scholarship

LEE — John Cahalen, son of John and Patricia Cahalen of Stockbridge Road, has been selected as winner of the 1990 American Postal Workers Union of Massachusetts scholarship.

The scholarship award is \$1,000 a year for four consecutive years. Cahalen, a 1990 graduate of Lee High School, is majoring in engineering at Northeastern University.

Square-dancing event planned at Lee park

LEE — The Lee Arts Lottery Council will present Cliff Brodeur and the live music of the Square One Band at 2 p.m. Sunday for an afternoon of square dancing in the Lee Town Park. The program will include calls suitable for all levels of dancers, including beginners.

Brodeur has appeared in many major square dance and country music festivals in the United States and Canada. Locally he is the club caller for the Pittsfield Square Dance Club, the B-Sharp Squares in Lenox and the Tamarack Twirlers in Troy, N.Y.

Members of the Square One Band have extensive experience in studio recording, concert performances and touring with artists such as Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger.

Admission is free and the audience is invited to participate in the dancing or to bring lawn chairs and picnic lunches to enjoy while they watch the performance. In the event of rain the program will be in the Lee High School cafeteria.



Joel Lianzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

After 80 years
Eagle 9.26.90 p. B1
 Stained-glass window in St. George's Episcopal Church, Lee, installed in 1910, has been restored at a cost of \$20,000. Here Kenneth and Carl Paulson ease final section into place.

Bank offers 8 1/4% first-time mortgages

LEE — Lee Bank has announced that it will again participate in the first-time home buyers' program sponsored by the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency. Lee Bank is one of 63 lenders in the program, which offers low-interest mortgages to people with low and moderate incomes.

The mortgages, which are for 30 years at 8 1/4 percent, require a minimum down payment of \$5,000.

The mortgage funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to qualified borrowers. Potential buyers should have a complete application and a signed purchase and sale agreement for the home they wish to purchase to begin the process.

To be eligible, an applicant, in addition to meeting lending requirements, must qualify under the program's income guidelines. For a one-person household, the maximum income is \$38,000. For

households with two or more members, the maximum is \$39,600. For single-family homes the maximum purchase price is \$109,000. Two- to four-family homes have higher limits.

Priority will be given to four categories of borrowers: low income (\$28,000 to \$31,000), Vietnam-era veterans, minorities, and the disabled.

Funds for this program became available last week.

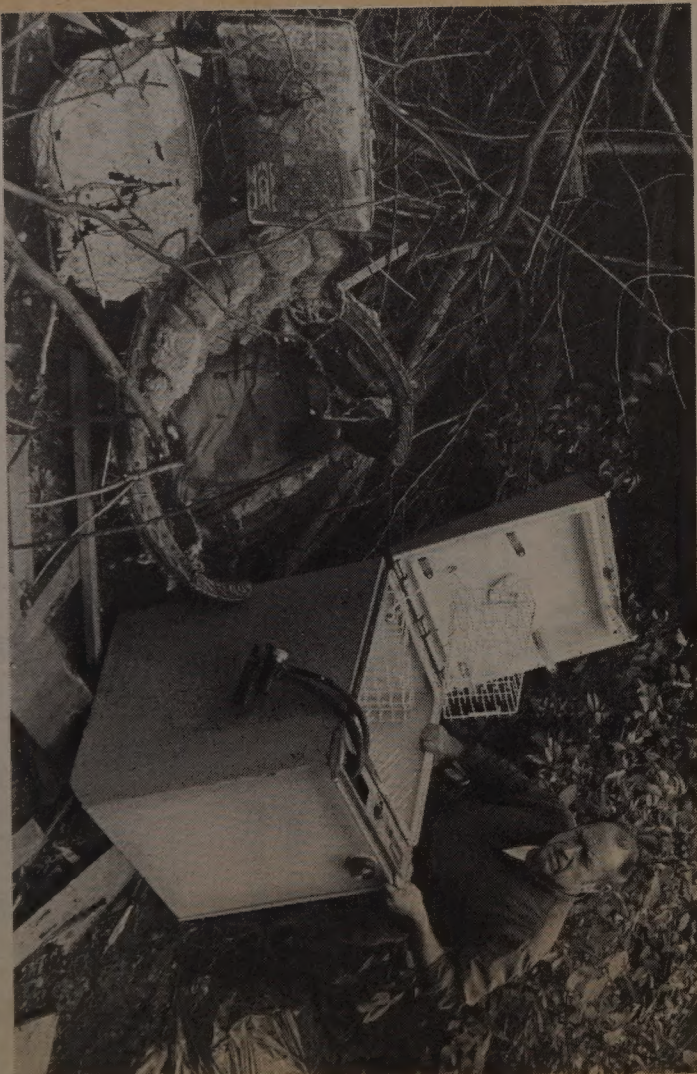
Eagle

9.27.90

p. C1

Eagle 9.27.90 p. C3

Mr. J. Michael Scully, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome J. Scully of Lee, has joined the law firm of Bulkley, Richard & Gellinas in Springfield as an associate. A 1980 graduate of Lee High School, he earned his undergraduate degree at Holy Cross in 1984 and his law degree with honors from the Western New England School of Law in 1989. Last year he worked as a law clerk to the justices of the Massachusetts Appeals Court in Boston. He lives in Springfield.



Joel Lianzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee Cemetery Superintendent Edward Thomas III stands next to dishwasher discarded at Fairmount Cemetery. *Eagle* 9.27.90 p. B4

Lee's cemetery superintendent bemoans dumping of appliances

By Derek Gentile
 Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As far as Cemetery Superintendent Edward Thomas III knows, only bodies can be buried at Fairmount Cemetery. Hot water heaters and dishwashers are still forbidden.

That rule has evidently been ignored by someone, however. Earlier this week, Thomas was dumping dirt and dead flowers over the embankment at the southern end of the cemetery, when he discovered two hot water heaters, a few chairs and a dishwasher. He said it probably happened over the weekend.

"I was throwing the wilted flowers over the bank, and I looked down and, geez, I couldn't believe it," he said. "I thought, 'This is terrible, doing this to a cemetery.' My gosh, we're trying to keep this place nice for people."

With the increased cost of disposing of white metal goods across the county, Thomas said he understood that various isolated areas have become impromptu dump sites. But he admitted that he did not expect his cemetery to be one of the places.

"I've been working here since 1962," he said. "My father, Edward Thomas Jr., was superintendent before me. When he retired in 1969, I moved up and became superintendent. I found I liked the work, so I stayed on. But I've never seen anything like this."

Thomas said he notified the police on Monday. The Cemetery Commission also plans to post "No Dumping" signs around the property, on the off chance that the individuals dumping innocently believed that disposing of the white metal goods over the embankment was legal. "The police told me they may have some leads," he said. "I hope so. This is a public cemetery, not a public dump."

COUNTRY LIVING

St. Mary's Academy In New Guise: Chambéry Inn

By Alfred Lenardson

LEE — The town's newest bed and breakfast inn may have some of the oldest roots and connections in the town. Set well back from Main Street, beyond a spacious lawn, the old St. Mary's Academy has been transformed into a grand inn indeed.

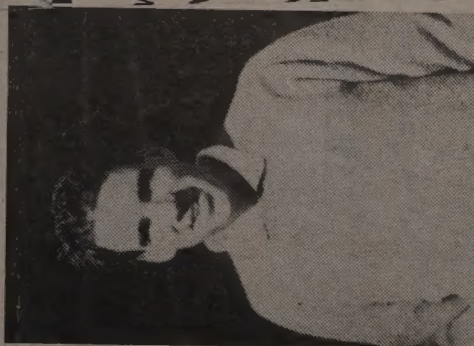
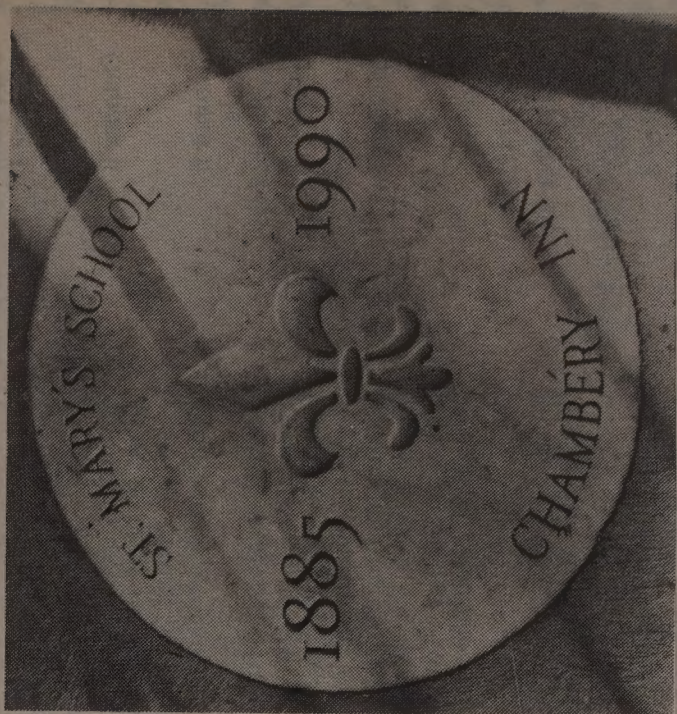
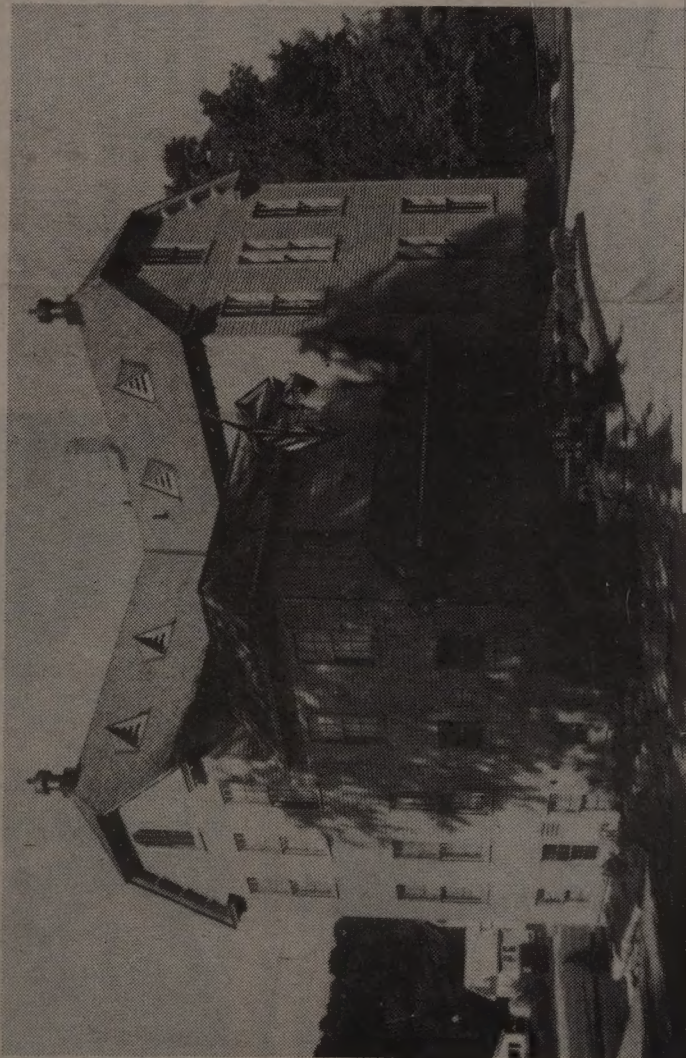
The old school rooms are now very large and spacious guest rooms and suites with fireplaces, Jacuzzis, cable TV and more. There is a handicap unit with its own parking, a kitchen for the use of the guests and there will be a breakfast buffet served to guests.

For business travelers, Chambéry Inn has executive desks, state of the art phones and a central Fax machine and available small conference facilities.

With 8 foot windows, 12 foot high embossed ceilings and a king or two queen sized beds in the suites, this B&B is somewhat different from the many old New England farmhouses which have been transformed into bed & breakfasts throughout the area.

All this would no doubt cause wonder to the Five Sisters of St. Joseph who sailed from the town of Chambéry, France on the Normandie in 1885 to teach at the first parochial school in the Berkshires. They would probably be just as surprised at the appearance of the old school today as they were on making their first contact with electricity on board the Normandie.

One of the students to attend St. Mary's school that first year was the grandfather of



Joseph M. Toole and his newly refurbished Chambéry Inn in Lee.

The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, September 27, 1990 — B5

Lee administrator post clears legislative hurdle

LEE — The Legislature's Committee on Local Affairs has released a bill that would enable Lee to create a town administrator's position, thus beginning a process that could bring the issue before the voters by the next annual town meeting.

The bill was amended by the committee Tuesday to delete a section that would convert several elective positions to appointive. Following the amendment, the bill passed unanimously, according to state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who sponsored the measure.

Hodgkins said the committee was in favor of creating a town administrator for Lee but was against any "shortening" of the ballot by reducing the number of elective positions. The initial bill called for making the town clerk, town treasurer, tax collector, Board of Health and constables appointive posts.

Town officials at the time opted to retool these positions as appointive as a way of giving the new administrator added authority.

He said he will suggest that the Selectmen convene a charter commission to determine whether making those posts appointive would be feasible and in the town's best interests.

"I think it should be studied,"

he said. "When it was part of the original bill, it kind of sidetracked the discussion of whether the town should have a town administrator. People started talking more about whether those jobs should be appointed or elected."

Hodgkins said residents have been confusing the two issues.

"I've never been opposed to the creation of a town administrator," he said. "I wrote the grant and pushed for it on the committee. The importance of a town administrator in Lee, to me, is great. The only thing I had reservations about was the shortening of the ballot. And the Committee on Local Affairs had these same reservations."

"I think this is a good compromise. If the town still feels strongly about this, they can form a charter commission to look at it. But, meanwhile, this will get moving."

Hodgkins said he expects to move the legislation through the state House within two weeks. From there, he said, it would proceed to the Senate. He did not predict how quickly the Senate would approve it but said the measure would definitely be ready for next May's annual town meeting.

Hull says Hodgkins loves taxes; Hodgkins' backers picket Hull

By Abby Pratt
Berkshire Eagle Staff
4.2.90 8.6.1

GREAT BARRINGTON — The campaign for representative from the 4th Berkshire District heated up yesterday, as supporters of state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, picketed the Main Street office of his opponent, Bruce Hull, to protest what they called "dirty politics."

The dozen or more pickets, bearing signs and a banner that read, "Don't pollute the Berkshires with dirty politics, Bruce," were reacting to a flyer the Hull campaign had mailed to South County voters.

The Hull brochure lists "three good reasons to replace Repre-

sentative Hodgkins." It says Hodgkins "loves" taxes, "does what House Speaker George Keverian tells him to do," and is responsible for "uncontrolled spending."

One of the pickets, David J. Steindler of Sheffield, asked, "If [Hull] thinks he's so smart, where is he going to cut expenses?"

Hodgkins, who visited the picket line briefly, denounced the campaign piece, saying, "Dirty politics makes for dirty politicians."

"All he did was have untruths and smear my name," the incumbent said. "This thing has generated more calls to my office and my home than you can imag-

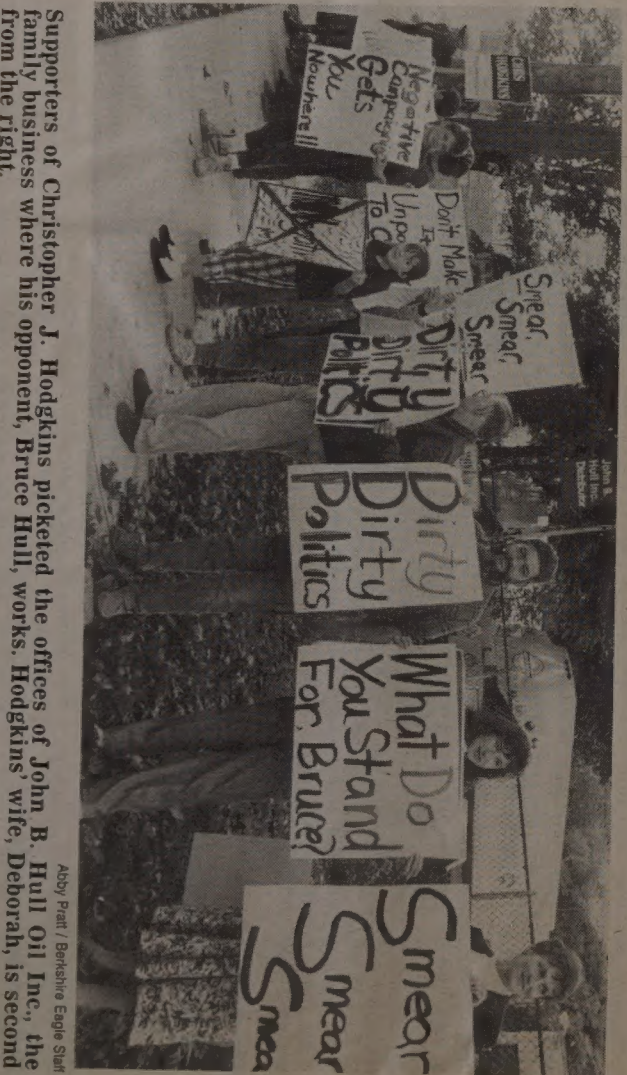
ine. People are outraged."

Hull last night, however, said that he wasn't running a smear campaign. "Everything I said is substantiated," he said. "I have the records of the roll calls and the votes to substantiate it."

The Republican challenger said that Hodgkins in the last two years had voted for increased taxes and fees eight times — twice for increased income taxes, once for doubling the corporate excise tax, once for the gasoline tax hike and the other times for increased fees.

Hull said that on the Keverian issue, Hodgkins, when he became a member of the House leader-

PICKETS, continued on B5



Abby Pratt, Berkshire Eagle Staff
Supporters of Christopher J. Hodgkins picketed the offices of John B. Hull Oil Inc., the family business where his opponent, Bruce Hull, works. Hodgkins' wife, Deborah, is second from the right.

Hodgkins' backers picket his opponent

■ PICKETS, from B1

ship in early 1989, was quoted in The Eagle as being told: "As a new chairman you can't be on board on just some of the things." Hodgkins is chairman of the Local Affairs Committee.

But Hodgkins said last night that the quote was taken out of a story describing his taking a leadership role in cutting taxes and holding the line against increased spending.

"George Keverian has never told me how to vote," he said. "What I was saying there is that you can't be a leader when it's convenient."

Hull contends that Dukakis "didn't spend Massachusetts into bankruptcy all by himself." The brochure contends Dukakis had the help of Hodgkins, who was quoted in the July 7 Eagle as calling himself a "tax and spend" Democrat. Hull pointed out. But in a July 10 article Hodgkins said the quote had been taken out of context, although he added that he did favor new revenues to maintain basic government services.

Yesterday Hodgkins said, "I've spent eight years fighting for the people of this district and never hidden anything I've done from anyone. And I've never run a smear campaign."

Hodgkins vowed "not to be drawn down to that level. There are still issues to address." Hodgkins' campaign manager, Louis J. Ogilanti, said the Hull brochure was "inappropriate for this campaign. It doesn't offer anything for the voters but a lot of half-truths. There is nothing about where [Hull] stands on issues; it's something against Chris."

Besides the statements about Hodgkins, the Hull brochure says on the back of it that Hull will demand efficiency in state government, oppose excessive taxes and "be your voice in Boston, not Boston's voice in the Berkshires."

Hodgkins' brochure, which he said he hands out door to door, does not mention Hull. It cites his record on education, the elderly, the environment and consumer issues, ending: "Chris Hodgkins — Going the Extra Mile Again."

Hull was not pleased with the fact Hodgkins' troops demon-

strated in front of the family business.

"As far as Representative Hodgkins picketing my mother and father's business — they're not running for office. I am," said Hull, adding that although he works for the company he is not an owner. "If he'd like to picket me, go ahead, but leave my mother and father out of it."

Derek Gentile also contributed to this story.

Courier 10.4.90 P.3 DAR Marks 100th Year

LEE -- Local members of Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated the organization's 100th birthday with a party Sept. 21 at First Congregational Church here.

Four District X chapters took part: First Resistance of Great Barrington; Ausotunnoog of Lee; Peace Party of Pittsfield; and Fort Massachusetts of North Adams.

Officers attending included Mrs. James J. Lucas, state regent and Mrs. Donald T. Baker, state vice-regent.

Florence Dunn read a brief history of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution written by Mrs. Allen Joyner of Ausotunnoog. A musical program included songs on guitar and violin by Mrs. Harry Hayden of Salisbury, Conn., an associate member of First Resistance.

Certificates and gifts were awarded to several guests including Frank J. Kelly of Lee, for assistance in genealogy and Mrs. George Spilger of Great Barrington, for her work as a district director.

Nuclear disarmament is imperative

To the Editor of THE EAGLE—

In 1986, The Defense Monitor, the journal of the Center for Defense Information in Washington, printed on its cover:

► Nuclear war could start by accident.

► Nuclear war could result at any time from technical malfunction, human failure, a misinterpreted incident or an unauthorized action.

► New, highly automated nuclear war-fighting systems increase the risk of accidental nuclear war.

► The Pentagon has a continuing program to reduce the possibility of accidental nuclear war.

► The United States and the Soviet Union have already entered into several agreements to reduce the risk of nuclear war, but more effective risk reduction measures are needed.

My concern is that not much

has changed in the past four years to assure the innocent people around the world that a nuclear holocaust is no longer a threat.

Imagine just for a moment what it would be like if our industry, hospitals, homes and forests were leveled, our water supply destroyed, our skin melted to our bones, our hair singed from our heads, eyes burned into their sockets — and perhaps our hearts would still beat.

Congressmen often say they are encouraged to support legislation because of mail they receive. If readers share my concerns, send letters to congressmen, the secretary of defense or the president. Encourage friends, neighbors and relatives to write letters demanding complete disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Lee Eagle 9.30.90
BRIANNE TOOLE
P.3

Taxation for limited citizens

Eagle 9-29-90 p. B1 LEE

Taxes. I'm all for them. In fact, I was having coffee with the shade of Josh Billings at Tanglewood the other day, and he even agreed with me. Nice to find somebody who agrees with you these days. As we gabbed along waxing poetic on the joys of taxes and our impatience with everybody who's trying to cut them back, good ole Josh had a great idea. Let's start our own organization. "Citizens for Unlimited Taxation," We'll call it. CUT. Whoops!

Wait a minute! Maybe we should get rid of all state taxes. Put everything in the hands of local and county government, that'll end the chaos of government bureaucracy, overspending and mismanagement. If parents want their kids to go to school, let them make their own decisions and pay directly. What's un-American about that? Maybe John W.P. Mooney's educational "user fees" make sense (Eagle Sept. 8). And, if we care about the homeless and disadvantaged, let's see if we really care enough to dig deep down in our own pockets.

Somewhere between these two extremes lies the truth. In spite of some excellent pieces in the Eagle (to wit, C.D. Nelsen's of Sept. 15 and Richard Nunley's of Sept. 19), nobody yet seems to have enough information on both

We're dealing with a volatile issue here.

sides of the Citizens for Limited Taxation referendum (Question 3 on the November ballot) to reach a well-reasoned conclusion to vote for or against it. I certainly don't.

Yet the snappy, blue-and-white "Vote No on 3" bumper stickers have already sprouted up in neighborhoods throughout the county. Opponents of Question 3 predict its passage would bring the virtual demise of human service organizations, even the demise of Berkshire Community College. With the tax rollback, life in the Berkshires as we know it would come to a halt. In the streets there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. The only recourse will be to pile the victims' bodies up in the middle of North Street in protest.

Sound extreme? Maybe it is. But we're dealing with an extremely volatile issue here. And proponents of the CLT rollback are responding to extreme situations in Boston.

When state government shows it is incapable of and/or unwilling to put first things first and act with anything like fiscal responsibility, what are taxpayers supposed to do? Time for a Boston Tea Party? When Boston decides to spend \$100,000 for a Statehouse clock and then begins to think about how to finance talking books for the blind, something's out of whack. The list goes on.

Where, then, does that leave the thoughtful citizen in trying to decide how to vote in November? For me, I'll enjoy the luxury of not having to take sides... yet. I'll sort through the current and forthcoming bombast of extremist rhetoric on both sides, look at the facts, weigh them, and only then make a final decision. The hope is that by not taking sides until it's necessary, we won't fall into that brand of simplistic, tunnel-visioned, prejudicial thinking that approaches fanaticism. I would like to think that there are others out there who share this approach.

But we are limited. First, by how well the media sort through the rhetoric and present us with the facts. And we are limited by how the people we come in contact with each day respond to what they think is going on.

Reminds me of an old children's story... When Chicken Little gets hit by an acorn falling from the sky, he runs to tell Cocky Locky that the sky is

After-hours drinking at bar was just friendly, owner says

Eagle 10-2-90 p. B5 By Derek Gentile Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen last night tabled until Oct. 9 a recommendation from the town's chief of police to suspend the liquor license of the owner of an establishment accused of serving alcohol after posted hours.

Police Chief Edward Finnegan told the board that two of his officers, Adrian Kohlenberger and William Bartini, were checking doors on Railroad Street at about 4:30 a.m. when they noticed three men in Erminio's, also known as the Bullseye Pub.

Finnegan said his two men investigated and discovered owner Timothy Shepardson and two other men in the bar. Two beer bottles and a drink were on the bar, Finnegan reported. The three men were ordered to leave by the police. Less than an hour later, one of the two unidentified men was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. In his report, Finnegan recommended the suspension of the bar's license for 30 days.

No sales

Attorney Donald C. Hunter, representing Shepardson, did not dispute the facts. But he said his client and friends were simply sitting at the bar, drinking and talking, much like anyone else would after work. The bar was closed and no money changed hands, Hunter said.

"Our position is, he was acting as though he were in his own home," Hunter said.

Hunter added that the town did not have any specific bylaws against such activity. There are bylaws against selling alcohol after hours and operating after hours, but serving alcohol privately is not covered.

Selectman William D. Bean was unimpressed by Hunter's logic. He pointed out that Shepardson was operating a bar under a liquor license granted by the town. He contended that had one of the

patrons been involved in an accident, the town would be a part of any lawsuit. He conceded that Shepardson may have avoided punishment "on a technicality, but as far as I'm concerned, you're on notice. You deliberately served those people alcohol to the point where they were intoxicated."

New bylaws

Bean said he would indeed sit down with Scully, Finnegan and the Selectmen to draft some bylaws that would address the problem.

Bean added he was disappointed the situation had reached this point, because Shepardson had been warned several times by Finnegan about operating after hours.

Shepardson said the board was kidding itself if it believed bars in Lee shut down completely at 2 a.m.

"My feeling is if I can't close my doors and have a beer with a friend, well, this isn't Russia; I'm not trying to operate an after-hours club. I'm not making any money," he said.

The board voted to rule on Finnegan's recommendation at its next meeting, Oct. 9.

DPW board, Selectmen clash in Lee

Eagle 10-2-90 p. B1 By Derek Gentile Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Tempers flared and confusion reigned last night as the Selectmen and the town's Department of Public Works tangled over the issue of whether the town has a valid contract with a firm negotiating with the town's Highway Department union and where the money would come from to pay it.

The DPW engaged Sheridan Associates of Boston to negotiate a new contract with the union, at a cost of \$9,000.

But Selectman Diane P. Roosa said last night that the DPW did not have any money allocated for the work.

Roosa charged that the DPW hired Sheridan without consulting the Selectmen and that the DPW said it would cut services to come up with the \$9,000, which she contended was too much.

"I don't think the [town representatives] were aware of this expense and how you would pay it when they approved your budget," she said.

Roosa said she spoke with the state Department of Revenue, who opined that the DPW would

DPW, continued on B4

Lee DPW, Selectmen clash

■ DPW, from B1 10-2-90 p. B1

Carlino urged the DPW to generate a contract quickly, as Sheridan could not be paid without it.

"You have no right to take money out of operating expenses and cut services for this item," she said.

DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova took exception to the charges and told Roosa his board was tired of being "harassed" by her.

"I'm sick and tired of being reprimanded in public," he said.

Castronova said the DPW had a letter from Sheridan Associates outlining the terms of the agreement. Castronova said he believed the letter constituted a contract. But, Castronova said, if Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully disagreed, then the DPW would have to go to Sheridan and get a contract.

"If you want a contract, fine, we'll get one," he said. "It's no problem."

He further explained that the DPW did not intend to cut services, but would take money left over from various accounts to pay the bill.

DPW member David Parker added that the School Committee, among other boards, does the same thing.

"I believe the [DPW] board has a certain amount of discretionary power, with your approval," he said. "It's not inconsistent with what we've been doing all along. It may be wrong, so we'll have to go back and fix it, but it's not new."

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia

Lee native voted to top golf post

3-1-91 Eagle

Stephen G. Cadenelli, a native of Lee and former golf course superintendent at Greenock Country Club in Lee, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at its recent conference in Las Vegas.

A 1966 Lee High graduate, the son of Geno and Amelia Cadenelli of Lee is currently responsible for the management of Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J. Cadenelli, who also graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1971, worked at Greenock and at courses in Connecticut prior to moving to New Jersey in 1985 to supervise construction and management of Metedeconk.

Briggs brothers and their No. 5 teams



Steve Briggs
Youngest head coach in U.S.

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff
A. 30
A. 30

LEE — Someday Fairview Street in Lee may be known as the cradle of college football coaches. It's starting to get that reputation, since two of the Briggs boys who grew up there are now in college coaching.

Steve, 28, is the youngest college head coach in the country and is in his first year at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. His younger brother Tim, 24, is in his second year as an assistant defensive coach for American International College in Springfield.

So far, both teams have been very successful. Susquehanna, the defending co-champion of the Middle Atlantic Conference, was 3-0 before yesterday and was No. 5 in the voting for the Division 3 Lambert Trophy, which signifies Eastern football supremacy. AIC was 2-1 going into yesterday's action and is No. 5 in the Division 2 Lambert vote.

Both played at Lee

The Briggs brothers both got their starts playing high school football in Lee. Steve

gained more than 3,000 yards as a running back before he graduated in 1979, spent 1980 at Berkshire School and then moved on to Springfield College, where he played defensive back and graduated in 1984. His first full-time job came in 1984, when he followed former chief coach Howard Vandersea to Bowdoin College in Maine as a receivers coach.

"I blew my knee out during my sophomore year. Coach Vandersea approached me and said he'd like to have me around the program. So I became secondary coach for the freshman team," Briggs recalled from his Susquehanna office. "To be quite honest with you, I was petrified. I evidently did a good enough job that when he got the job at Bowdoin, he called me."

Briggs moved from Bowdoin to the University of Richmond as an assistant in 1985 and '86. He took a job as the outside linebacker coach at Lehigh in 1987-'88, before becoming defensive coordinator at Susquehanna in 1988. Briggs was given the head job in February, when Rocky Rees left to coach Shipensburg (Pa.) State.

"It was a bit overwhelming at first," said Briggs, who got calls from USA Today and the Philadelphia Inquirer, among other newspapers. "I had everybody calling me because of my age. It was flattering, but it was scary."

Eventually Briggs got comfortable and Susquehanna got comfortable with its new head coach. The Crusaders haven't lost for Briggs yet.

Susquehanna beat Muhlenberg 23-7, Moravian 32-7 and Wilkes 34-18. The Crusaders' defense is holding opponents to 1.7 yards rushing per try and only about 100 yards a game passing. Offensively, quarterback David Battisti became the Susquehanna leader in touchdown passes with 38 and total offense with 4,012 yards. Briggs' team has outscored its opponents 80-12 in the first half of its three games.

Second time's the charm

Younger brother Tim got into coaching shortly after graduating from Western New England College in 1988. The 1984 Lee gradu-

BRIGGS, continued on C2



Tim Briggs
Follows brother's footsteps

The coaching Briggs brothers

■ BRIGGS, from C1

ate was working for Sterling Radiator in Westfield and had turned down a coaching position once. But when the chance presented itself again, "I couldn't resist it," he said.

"Steve tried to inform me about what I was getting myself into," Tim said. "He said I had to pay my dues."

That's what Tim Briggs is doing now. In addition to coaching the defensive line, he's studying for a master's degree in secondary education and is a dormitory director at AIC.

"I expected a lot of hours and a lot of work," he said of the 12-to-16-hour workdays. "But it's a labor of love. I've enjoyed every minute. It's like working at your hobby for a living."

Tim Briggs said he speaks to Steve on the telephone once a week, usually Wednesday or

Thursday nights, discussing game plans and strategies.

Both Briggs brothers say they are interested in continuing their college coaching careers.

"I still have this year and another to decide," said Tim, who is in a three-year master's program.

"Coaching is such a tough business. If I don't continue in colleges, I'll fall back on my degree, teach and coach in high school."

His older brother, who is married to former Monument Mountain athlete Christina LeBlanc, said his goal right now is to keep Susquehanna on the winning track.

"I want to be in a program that's successful. I don't want to be in a program where I'm a doormat," said Briggs, who wouldn't rule out stepping up a division or two with the right team. "Opportunities will present themselves if we do what we're supposed to do."

Bullseye Pub must close early for 30 days

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff
B. 10.10.98
B. 10.10.98

LEE — After some reflection and argument, the Selectmen last night voted 2-1 to curtail the operating hours of the Bullseye Pub for 30 days by requiring the owner to close at 1 a.m.

The directive, which takes effect tonight, came in the wake of a report last week by Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan that cited owner Timothy Shepardon for serving alcohol to two patrons of the bar until 4:30 a.m., or 2½ hours after the mandatory 2 a.m. closing time.

The Selectmen reached the 30-day early closing period in a roundabout way. Shepardon's attorney, Donald C. Hunter, had proposed a 90-day closing at

PUB, continued on B4

Bullseye Pub is ordered to close early for month

■ PUB, from B1
10.10.98
B. 10.10.98

1 a.m. as a compromise with the 30-day shutdown recommended by Finnegan.

"This is the way he makes his living and feeds his family," Hunter said.

Bylaws lacking

Hunter added that the town's lack of bylaws dealing with the subject was another problem. Although he agreed that his client had stayed after hours drinking with friends, Hunter said the town has no laws specifically prohibiting that act and no statute spelling out what punishment can be meted out.

"The law is subject to interpretation as to what constitutes closed and not closed," he said.

Selectman William Bean was amenable to the 90-day punishment. Finnegan said he would abide by the board's decision, adding that the 90-day early closing, "might serve to get the mes-

sage across."

But Selectman Diane P. Roosa favored a lighter penalty, mainly because she believed the town had been lax in not writing out specific regulations to deal with the situation. Roosa said she did not condone Shepardon's actions but added that punishing him for the town's lack of a bylaw addressing the situation, she said, would be inappropriate.

DuPont for 60 days

Selectman Chairman Joseph DuPont said he believed 90 days too harsh and 30 perhaps too soft. He leaned toward 60 days. Bean moved to set the 90-day early closing, which no one seconded. Roosa moved for 30 days, and DuPont seconded. The motion passed, 2-1, with Bean opposed.

Hunter lauded the board for its decision, saying that 30 days "is more than enough to bring home the message, especially when you consider the time Tim has had between these meetings to think about the income he'll lose."



Roger S. Hart

50th reunion

Eagle 10.10.90 Pg. B4

Lee High School class of 1940 gathered Sept. 22 at the Greenock Country Club in Lee. From left are, first row: Blanche Jones Burke, Barbara Hitchcock Holden, Mary Ruth Hayden Orpurt, Margaret Crawford Blache, Elizabeth Guristante Enser, Angelo Avanzato, Freda Kleiner Stevens, Marion Finnegan Marazzi; second row: Josephine Tolvo Blache, Elizabeth Powers Hodgkins, Ann Sitzer Ingram,

Priscilla Keating Swanson, Madeline Sour Olds, Rena Bartina McCusker, Mildred Abele Vranas, Barbara Smith Bracknell, Donald Fillio, William Clarke, Jack Gair, Joseph Carlino, Arlene Benjamin Duquette, Americo Zeneri, George Marres, Lillian Abderhalden Forrest; third row: William Hayden, Douglas Ingram, Gerald Collins, James Chandler, George Gleason and Joseph Basinaut.

Lord At Antioch

10-11-90

LEE -- Rebecca Lord of this town is one of 225 new students recently accepted for fall admission at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, N.Y. An associate member of the Lee Conservation Commission, she was the technical director of the winter dance festival at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington.

Lee Selectmen ask departments to prepare level-funded budgets

10-11-90

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE -- Bowing to the realization that next year is unlikely to be any more prosperous than this year, the Selectmen and Finance Committee have agreed to require all town boards and departments to level-fund their budgets for the 1991-92 fiscal year.

Both boards agreed Tuesday that in the light of declining state revenues, the plan was not unreasonable.

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino said she believed the idea was feasible given the state's fiscal dilemma. Asking boards to cut their budgets a percentage from this year would be too conservative a move, she said.

"It's a realistic strategy," she said. "Of course, if Question 3

passes, then it's a whole new ballgame."

Carlino was referring to a referendum question on the November ballot that would roll back state taxes and fees to 1988 levels. In Lee's case, for example, such a rollback would lop another \$400,000 from its state aid funds.

But Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont said he did not believe it was productive to worry about the potential problem of something that had not passed yet.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask agreed.

"We'll have enough time to react to that if it passes," he said.

DPW action supported

In a related matter, Trask said his board endorsed the Department of Public Works' decision to spend \$9,000 for a negotiator for the Highway Department union but added he did not believe his board had the authority to authorize a transfer from the free cash account.

"I think that's something that should go before the [town representatives]," he said. "It seems to me that's how we've done it before."

DuPont said he was reluctant to schedule a special town meeting for just that. He added that the Selectmen were in an awkward position, as they could not suspend negotiations because they had already begun and Sheridan Associates had been paid for work already done.

Selectman William Bean suggested that because the expense might be considered unexpected, the Finance Committee did have the authority to approve it.

Trask was not convinced, but he agreed to poll the rest of the board members and to return to the Selectmen with their recommendation.

The board also voted 2-0 to send a resolution to state officials decrying the potential cutbacks should Question 3 pass. Bean abstained, saying he believed it inappropriate for a selectman to endorse a position one way or another.

"Well, it's very important to me," DuPont said. "This is the first time in my life I've put a bumper sticker on my car. I think the voters need a little direction, and I see this creating very serious problems for the town if it passes."

Independent candidates request equal coverage

10-11-90

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:--

The race for state representative in the 4th Berkshire District is being covered by all the news media in the area. Equal space and coverage to all the candidates by The Eagle is vital to the voters of the 4th District in order to let them properly evaluate each candidate's views on important issues.

The Eagle's Sept. 30 In Brief failed to mention the name of this race's third candidate, independent James Edelman, who, by the way, has not gotten himself involved with this political mud-slinging. It is essential that the views of candidate Edelman be included with his two opponents to ensure fairness in reporting.

Christopher Hodgkins has had eight years in office, unopposed until now. In eight years his name is recognizable to the people of his district. The recent primary in Massachusetts has replaced many politicians with "new blood." The well-known voices of these politicians are being answered by the same voters who gave them the privilege to serve the people. It is time for a change.

Three candidates are running for state representative in the 4th Berkshire District: Jim Edelman, Bruce Hull and Christopher Hodgkins.

Look into candidate Jim Edelman's views. They are impressive.

DAVID EDELMAN

Norfolk, Conn.

The writer is a brother of candidate Jim Edelman.

Edelman: Hodgkins lies about record

MONTEREY — James V. Edelman, independent candidate for state representative from the 4th Berkshire District, has accused incumbent state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, of "borrowing" sections of Edelman's campaign literature and "using them to lie about [Hodgkins'] record."

In a prepared statement, Edelman cited statements by Hodgkins that he does not serve special interest groups.

"That simply isn't true," Edelman's statement said. "In fact, Hodgkins has accepted substantial sums of campaign money from professional lobbyists who represent many special interest groups such as the Massachusetts Medical Society, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and Northeast Utilities. ... This year alone, he has collected over \$6,000 from contributors in the Boston area. Chris may say he works for you, but he has collected plenty of money from questionable sources."

Hodgkins said Wednesday that he has accepted contributions from lobbying firms that represent the clients Edelman mentioned. However, he noted that the firms also represent other clients and none of the money came directly from the MMA, R.J. Reynolds or Northeast Utilities.

Hodgkins said that the money was contributed because the firms "respect me," and that his legislative record reflects votes and positions that are directly contrary to the firms' clients' interests.

"My name is on a bill that prohibits smoking in certain public places, and I have been at every rate-setting hearing Northeast Utilities has had in this district. I even sued them once."

Hodgkins said that his campaign literature "has been essentially the same since I first ran for office in 1982." He also said that even though the law allows it, he has never accepted campaign contributions from any corporation or political action committee.

"That is public record," he said. "I hold myself to a higher standard than even the law dictates."

'If the board of directors of any corporation was consistently running their company in the red, the stockholders would vote to fire them.'

— Candidate James V. Edelman

Hodgkins, Hull, Edelman hold their fire in debate

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

SHEFFIELD — Accusation took a back seat to thoughtful discussion last night as the three candidates for the 4th Berkshire District outlined their platforms to about two dozen residents at Mount Everett Regional School.

Incumbent Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, and Republican challenger Bruce C. Hull of Great Barrington — who have been at each other's throats — and Independent challenger James V. Edelman of Monterey refrained, for the most part, from taking potshots at each other and stuck to the issues.

Edelman drew one of the louder ovations of the evening when he announced he believed that the entire state Legislature should be fired. He said the state, which he said takes in annually about \$13 billion in revenue, should be run as a business.

"And if the board of directors of any corporation was consistently running their company in the red, the stockholders would vote to fire them," he said. "That's what I think the voters should do in November."

The event was sponsored by the

Mount Everett Teachers' Association. It was moderated by Timothy Bush, a student at the school.

The format was more a discussion than a debate. Each man was allowed a brief opening statement and then answered questions from a panel of Mount Everett students. Later, they also answered questions from the audience.

Two oppose Question 3

The question asked by both the students and audience had to do with the candidates' stance regarding the initiative placed on the ballot by the Citizens For Limited Taxation. Question 3, as it is listed on the ballot, would call for the rollback of all fees and taxes to 1988 levels.

Hodgkins and Edelman are opposed to the measure.

Hodgkins said the amount of money to be lopped from the budget would devastate small towns. He said he has talked with all the boards of Selectmen in his district, "and they're terrified of it. It will destroy their towns."

"Question 3 will require us to chop \$2 billion out of the budget by

DEBATE, continued on B3

Area Sports

Lee native Carol Hammerle honored

Lee native Carol Hammerle, longtime women's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, was inducted last week into the Northern Michigan University Sports Hall of Fame.

Hammerle, the daughter of Mary Hammerle of Lee and the late Warren Hammerle, received her master of arts degree in education in 1973 from Northern Michigan, where she was assistant coach for women's basketball and field hockey while working on her degree.

During 17 seasons as coach of the Lady Phoenix at Green Bay, she has had 13 consecutive winning seasons and a 295-154 career record. At Green Bay, she is also associate athletic director responsible for coordination of tennis, volleyball, cross country, softball, swimming and diving.



Carol Hammerle
Hall of Famer from Lee

Hodgkins, Hull, Edelman debate

■ DEBATE, from B1

next year," Hodgkins said. "Where are we going to get it? From our elderly programs? From our health-care programs? Do we need to restructure government? Sure we do. But not at the expense of our citizens. Question 3 goes too far."

Edelman agreed, saying, initially Question 3 "was very attractive to me. But the reality of the situation is that it will hurt the people who need it most. I don't mean to be negative, but we're facing hard times. In the next year, it won't be getting any better. But Question 3 won't help."

Hull favors 3, 5

Hull reminded the audience that Question 3 also will put more money back into people's pockets. He added that he was in favor of a yes vote on Question 3 and Question 5, which will require the state to return 40 percent of its revenue to the individual towns.

Another question posed to the candidates concerned whether to shrink the Legislature, set a limit on how long the Legislature should be in session and put a limit on the number of terms a legislator can serve.

Hull was in favor of limiting terms, saying it would enable "new blood" to be elected to the Statehouse annually. He said he believed the House of Representatives, at 160 members, was "the right size." He said he was in favor of a six-month limit on how long the Legislature could meet.

Edelman said he favored cutting the House in half. The savings, he said, could be up to \$20 million. He said he favored a three-term limit on state representatives, with a one-term period off. A legislator, he said, could run again after he took that time off.

"Too many incumbents have a tremendous advantage when they run again, and that keeps people from running for office," he said.

Hodgkins favored retaining the size of the House, noting that too few representatives would create large districts.

"The reps would be less approachable and not as accountable," he said.

Hodgkins added that he believed the six-month limit for yearly sessions was a good idea. He was not in favor of limiting terms of office.

"If someone wants to limit my time in office, they can limit it Nov. 6," he said.

10/14/90

Hodgkins seeks DPU hearing on behalf of towns shortchanged by toll-call reform

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — While many Berkshire cities and towns will benefit from New England Telephone's plan to reduce toll calls within the 413 area code, several communities have been shortchanged, according to state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins.

The most extreme case is that of Housatonic, he said. Although the village is part of the town of Great Barrington, Housatonic residents must still pay a toll for calls to Lee, Otis and Sandisfield, even though those same tolls are free for the rest of Great Barrington.

"Housatonic residents are angry and I don't blame them," Hodgkins said. "Why are they paying an extra \$3? They don't get anything extra."

Hodgkins said that he is only "half-

satisfied" by the reforms and that he will petition the state Department of Public Utilities to reconvene a public hearing on the matter as soon as possible.

Hodgkins said he already has assurance from DPU Commissioner Robert Werlin that a hearing will be announced within the next two weeks.

On Oct. 2, New England Telephone announced that beginning Oct. 19, customers of the service will begin paying less for calls within the 413 area code, although their basic rate will be going up \$3. The basic rate for business customers will be going up \$6.

The basic formula expands the number of neighboring communities that can be called toll-free in most communities in the area. For example, calls from Pittsfield to Adams and Williamstown

used to be toll calls. Now they will be toll-free.

The reforms, however, do not go far enough, Hodgkins said. Several communities, including Washington, Worthington and Hinsdale, have been shortchanged, he added.

"What I'm saying is what's been done is a good step forward, but I don't want to start paying higher rates until every community in Berkshire County gets what we asked for. And that is better service, modern service."

Hodgkins said residents of those four towns and Housatonic also do not have access to touch-tone service.

"New England Telephone announced this advancement in 1968," he said. "We're just asking them to make good on their promise everywhere."

Lee may need to call special town meeting

10-17-90

LEE — The Selectmen have learned that a special town meeting may be needed after all to transfer \$9,000 from available funds to pay for negotiations with the town Highway Department union.

The snafu occurred when the town's Department of Public Works board approved the expense without providing for it in its budget. Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont said he spoke with Finance Committee Chairman Robert Trask, who said his board was not comfortable recommending the town transfer the sum without a special town meeting.

The town is now in the difficult position of having authorized negotiations without having money to pay for them.

DuPont said he was reluctant to discuss the matter or schedule a meeting with only two members of the board present. Selectman William D. Bean was absent from the board's meeting Monday night.

Although the boards are in agreement that a professional negotiator is prudent, Selectman Diane P. Roosa has gone on record in the past as opposing the expense and has also criticized the DPW board for hiring the negotiator, Sheridan and Associates Inc. of Holyoke, without having the money in hand.

In a related matter, two members of the Highway Department union sharply criticized DuPont for general remarks he made about the workers in an article in last week's South County Advocate.

The Lenox-based weekly had

contacted DuPont for comment concerning several controversies involving the town's Department of Public Works board, including the problem mentioned above. DuPont reportedly said members of the town's highway crew were also partly to blame for the situation.

Union Steward Stanley J. Daoust told DuPont he was angry because the Selectmen chairman was making the comments during contract negotiations.

"I can't understand why you would do that now, Joe," Daoust said.

Another worker, Paul V. Porini, said DuPont's comments tainted the entire Highway Department. He said he was at the meeting to ask DuPont if the comments were directed at him.

DuPont replied that the comments were general ones, not directed at anyone.

Century adding Boston channel

was important to have one Boston television station," August said.

The company has also agreed to work with the collaborative on an interactive television program that would involve the four member school districts. Century had agreed to begin such a program when it signed a lease with the four towns, Hodgkins said, but had not followed through.

Of the three major cable companies serving Berkshire County, including Warner Cable Co. of Pittsfield and Adelphia Cable of North Adams, Century is the last company to provide a Boston-affiliated station and a local access program.

kins said, were to include WCVB Channel 5 from Boston in the basic service, to provide several other new optional channels and to renew Century's commitment to provide interactive television for the Southern Berkshire Educational Collaborative. No channels will be dropped to make room for Channel 5.

Town officials from Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington, the four communities served by Century, had expressed a desire to have at least one Boston station to provide news and programming from the state capital. "Century had been providing news programs from Springfield and Albany, but we agreed that it

[Century] the importance of compliance. We wanted to pin them down on certain issues, and we think the meeting helped. The company opened up, and everyone will benefit."

"These guys have been number one on my consumer complaint list for years," said Hodgkins, holding up a thick file of letters concerning the cable company. "What we wanted to do was have a dialogue and get them to make some concessions. They weren't offering interactive, they didn't have a Boston station and they still have 10 million shopping channels right in the middle of the dial."

The main concessions, Hodg-

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Customers of Century Berkshire Cable Corp. can expect improved service and a new channel from the Boston area as a result of a recent meeting between the company and the state cable commission.

A meeting set up by state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, involving Community Antenna Television Commissioner Roselyn Niles and officials from Century enabled the parties to "work something out that was beneficial to all sides," said the commission's counsel, William August.

He said Niles "conveyed to

'Advocacy'

CHRISTOPHER J. HODGKINS, incumbent Democrat who has held the fourth Berkshire district seat for four terms, says the Legislature has to accept blame for the commonwealth's fiscal mess.

"We all took credit for the surplus, so I guess we can take the blame for our problems," he says, noting that the state budget has grown 78 percent in a period in which inflation grew only 25 percent.

Mr. Hodgkins, however, says that he personally took heat in 1989 for proposing cuts. "I see no pork barrel in this district," he says. "At most, there will be an occasional salt shed, say, for Sandisfield."

The Lee resident says that when the budget problems first became evident, even something he held dear -- the District Court in Lee -- became vulnerable. "It was time to give up your babies."

He says he firmly believes in the services the commonwealth is providing its residents, but measures have to be taken to cut the cost of providing those services. *Please turn to Page 12*

Hodgkins

Continued from Page 1

As an example, he says, the Great Barrington Welfare office is slated to close at the end of November. Mr. Hodgkins says he will urge regional based management. He says agency heads in Berkshire, in fact, meet regularly to discuss their clientele and possible ways to cut overlaps in service. This could also be done statewide.

Should Question 3, a tax reduction measure, pass in November, where would Massachusetts cut \$1 billion or so from its budget in the first year? Mr. Hodgkins says priorities will have to be set and reductions made. Similarly, he says, if the measure does not pass, the Legislature because of declining revenues will have to make cuts and look for new revenue sources.

If Question 3 passes, Mr. Hodgkins says, the Legislature "will give the people what they ask for?" It will not likely pass a new slate of taxes. (It took the Legislature four years to ease the restraints of Proposition 2 1/2.) Cuts will be made. With a budget of \$6 billion in entitlements, there is \$4 billion in discretionary spending to cut from.

He would, however, work to stop obvious waste and highly visible but dubious expenditures such as a \$150,000 clock outside the State House.

Mr. Hodgkins says cuts will "devastate the economy, hurt industry, terrorize education and the elderly." Where will they be made? He had no likely suggestions.

The representative says that he sees a major mark of his eight years in office passage of bills dealing with lemon autos, nursing home ombudsmen, victim rights and acid rain.

"My role is one of advocacy," he says. "For example the truck weighing station proposed in Stockbridge: I stopped it. The microwave towers being built along the Massachusetts Turnpike: they got dismantled. The telephone company's new rate structure and dialing area: no one had petitioned for it before." (Regarding the last, he says he has some serious qualms with the changes, or lack of changes, for Housatonic.)

Regarding the local economy, Mr. Hodgkins points to expansion of such local paper manufacturers as Rising Paper in Housatonic and Mead Paper in Lee and the arrival of Berkshire Motion Picture in Housatonic as signs of health and vitality. He gives examples of having helped small businesses through the bureaucratic ropes.

Beyond that, he says, once he has helped someone, "I follow up and try to change the system" if it isn't working smoothly.

Mr. Hodgkins says he views Berkshire as a regional economy. He does not see Greylock Glen as a solution to our shrinking manufacturing base here. How can you fund a museum of contemporary art, he asks, but not repair bridges or roads so that trucks can haul material from Pfizer's plant?

Mr. Hodgkins describes himself as a maverick. He says he was "invited inside the tent" by Legislative leaders "because they'd rather have me inside than out."

Mr. Hodgkins says the Legislature is suffering from bad leadership. He says the Dukakis administration was distracted in 1987-88 when the state's population declined by 93,000, largely from loss of high-technology business.

"We desperately need leadership," he says.

"We're in a regional recession, we have a national problem and we're in an international crisis. We're in deep trouble. We need stability by making cuts and raising revenues.

"If the state doesn't take the burden, it will fall back on the communities."

Schmidinger has surgery

■ SCHMIDINGER, from D1

"She sounded pretty upbeat when I talked to her," Elmar Schmidinger said. "But this injury is a little worse than the last one. They found more damage than they thought."

Steadman was unavailable for comment last night.

Hospitalized with teammate

Schmidinger is staying at the same hospital as her U.S. teammate Kristi Terzian, who underwent major reconstructive surgery Monday on her right knee after another training accident. Terzian is expected to be out of action at least nine months.

Schmidinger's twin sister, Krista, is scheduled to return to Lee today from Switzerland.

10-25-90

Schmidinger has knee surgery

10-25-90

Lee skier will sit out 1990-1991 competitive season

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — U.S. Ski Team member Kim Schmidinger of Lee underwent 2 1/2 hours of surgery last night in Park City, Utah, to repair torn ligaments in her left knee — an injury that will prevent her from competing in the 1990-91 season.

Schmidinger, 20, injured her knee during slalom practice with the U.S. Ski Team on Monday in Saas Fee, Switzerland. She was flown to Utah on Tuesday, and surgery was performed last night by Dr.

Richard Steadman, the team physician.

Schmidinger's father, Elmar, said last night that Kim will remain in Park City for the next three or four days, then return home to Lee to begin her rehabilitation, which is expected to take from six to nine months.

This is the second major knee injury for Schmidinger, who in 1985 underwent similar surgery for a ligament tear in her right knee. She was back on skis about six months after that operation.

SCHMIDINGER, continued on D10

Historic Lee slide show put on video

LEE — "Portrait of a Town," produced in 1977 as a slide show of Lee, through an arts lottery grant, has been transferred to videotape by Sam Sorrentino.

It will be available on loan from the Lee Library and individual copies can be ordered from Cutting Edge Video of Lee.

The original slide show was produced by Lester J. Clarke of South Lee at the time of Lee's bicentennial. It includes visits to the grade schools now closed, the church services, Lee's industries and many local personalities at work and at play.

The Lee High dance band, chorus and woodwind ensemble of the time are pictured providing the background music.

Narration is by Wayne Larrivee who now is at radio station WGN, Chicago where he is the voice of the Chicago Bears football team.

One copy of the tape has been placed in the Lee Library archives as an item of historical interest.

Controversy reigns on Lee DPW board

Catherine Daoust listed a series of complaints to the Lee selectmen Monday night about the conduct of the town Department of Public Works board.

She said the board has a high rate of absenteeism, makes offensive remarks during meetings to each other and town employees, has little or no regard for proper procedure and spent more than \$5,000 unnecessarily for a contractor to mow the grass -- a job normally undertaken by the DPW highway crew.

Although Daoust asked selectmen chairman Joseph F. Dupont to start attending DPW meetings to monitor the board's conduct, Dupont declined the invitation saying that it would not be proper for him to tell another board how to conduct its meetings.

Selectman Diane Roosa, however, endorsed Daoust's suggestion. Roosa said she has listened to the tapes of the DPW board meetings and board members often use offensive language.

"There are some serious concerns being brought up," she said. "I agree that some of the things they say are inappropriate."

Later in the meeting when it became clear that Dupont would not follow up on Daoust's proposal that he sit in on some DPW meetings Roosa said: "You're not going to accept what we have to say. Does that mean you think we're liars?"

"It's because we're women," Daoust said. "I don't think that's the case," selectman William D. Bean answered. Bean also said he has been pleased with the DPW board's conduct.

Castronova re-elected

Despite controversy surrounding Joseph Castronova's tenure as chairman of the Lee Department of Public Works board, the seven-man DPW board re-elected Castronova to the position last week. Two other committee members, David Parker and John P. Acquadio, declined nominations to be chairman. Castronova has come under criticism from highway crew members and selectman Diane Roosa for his actions against DPW employees and style as chairman. Castronova, however, defends his position, saying that changes need to be made in the highway department.

10/24/90 Adv.

10/24/90 Adv.



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Heather Goethe, a 3rd grader at St. Mary's, tapes another star with the name of a respondent on a school window. Behind her is Sister Eileen Horan, who is coordinating the letter-writing project.

Letters from Lee engulfing GIs

10-22-90

By Abby Pratt

Letters from students engulf GIs

10-22-90

LETTERS, from B1

that people back in the United States are thinking about the U.S. servicemen here in Saudi Arabia."

Tense times

Megan also heard from Navy Lt. Bruce Van Dam, who wrote that he has faced "some very tense times" aboard the USS Wisconsin in the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, he said the sailors are "training, training, training and more training."

"There isn't one person in the Navy who doesn't like getting mail," Van Dam continued. "Even bills are acceptable after having been out here for a while."

Army Spec. Robert Baillargeon of Hinsdale — "Airborne Rob," as he signs his letters — is one of the children's most frequent correspondents.

"I had an especially bad day today," the 21-year-old serviceman wrote 7th grader Holly McMahon of Tamarack Avenue. "Your letter really cheered me up."

Tech. Sgt. G. James Scarafoni Jr., father of 5th grader Kristie Scarafoni of Theresa Terrace, has

Where to send your letters

People who want to write men and women in the service participating in Operation Desert Shield may address mail as follows:

For personnel on land, write Any Service Member, Operation Desert Shield, APO New York 09848-0006.

For personnel at sea, write Any Service Member, Operation Desert Shield, FPO New York 09866-0006.

Postage is 25 cents, the same as a first-class letter within the United States.

also aided the letter-writing effort, corresponding with some of the children and providing the names and addresses of fellow servicemen.

An Air Force reservist who normally works in maintenance at Kimberly-Clark Corp., Scarafoni is loadmaster — he supervises the loading and unloading — of a plane that ferries supplies to Saudi Arabia.

Conditions described

While back in the United States on a brief leave last week, he visited the 5th grade and brought with him one of the ready-to-eat meals that are standard fare in the desert. He told the children the temperature is over 100 de-

grees most of the time. Other servicemen wrote of the dust that covers everything.

"A 24-hour day is a short day" for military personnel in the gulf, Scarafoni said yesterday. "Morale is still real high," he said, "but everyone, including myself, hopes this thing gets over with soon."

"Nobody likes to see anything happen. But if something's going to happen, let's settle it and get back home."

The children paste a star on a classroom window every time they hear from someone new. Each star has the serviceman's name on it.

Horan said the letter-writing project has gained tremendous momentum since it began in mid-

September with the mailing of a batch of letters from children in the upper grades.

At the time, the pupils paid the 25 cents postage on each of the letters. Then Mead Corp., the local Masons, a teacher, a parent and an anonymous person gave a total of \$375 to be used for postage.

Now all 218 children at St. Mary's are involved, and they can afford to enclose stamped, self-addressed envelopes with their letters.

The thermometer on the hall bulletin board at St. Mary's, showing the total number of letters mailed, read 735 Tuesday, and Horan had 100 more letters to post.

The 8th grade plans to submit the school's letter-writing campaign to the Guinness Book of World Records. The goal is to write 1,000 letters before Christmas.

"I planted a seed," Horan said, "but the children created a forest."

Crackdown on Lee zoning violations

Lee building inspector Robert Lester has filed or is planning to file six criminal complaints in Southern Berkshire District Court as part of a crackdown on zoning violations in town. Lester says the filings are part of an ongoing effort to make sure the town's regulations are adhered to. Two of the violations that he says are close to being brought to court are against Black Swan Inn for placing two signs on its Route 20 business and Frederick Mercer of Great Barrington for allowing the use of a Marble Street building by Valerie Trucking Co. without a certificate of occupancy. Another controversial case involving the construction of a deck by Susan Boyle has been settled, he says.

10/24/90

Adv.

Libraries need reps like Hodgkins

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Among his many accomplishments during his eight years as state representative, Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, has been a strong and avid supporter of the needs of public libraries. He has never failed to provide help and understanding.

This is only one of several reasons why I support his reelection.

Lee

BETTY L. DENNIS

The writer is the retired librarian of the Lee Library Association.

10/31/90

talk of the towns

Lee entrepreneur buys Park Taxi

Richard Brunell of Lee has acquired Park Taxi from former owner Joe Huggins who sold the business after 12 years of owning and operating it. Brunell, a 1984 Lee High School graduate with a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship from Northeastern University, says he plans to continue operating the taxi business on a 24-hour-a-day basis as well as expand it to include other services. He says the company will deliver packages and make long-distance group trips. A van is available for ski groups, shopping trips, concerts and parties. Park Taxi has joined the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority taxi ticket program to help defray costs for seniors and handicapped customers.

10/24/90 Adv.

Hodgkins wins in landslide

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

11/7/90

LEE -- In a race that brought no surprises, state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, swept to re-election by a substantial margin to his post in the 4th Berkshire District.

Hodgkins had an almost 4-to-1 edge over Republican Bruce D. Hull of Great Barrington, his nearest rival. Although all results were not in by presstime, Hodgkins had about 71 percent of the vote, with Hull getting 20 percent and independent candidate James V. Edelman of Monterey, 9 percent. A total of 11 of the 17 towns in the 4th Berkshire District had reported in at presstime.

"When this campaign started, I didn't make any predictions," said Hodgkins when asked if he were surprised with his wide margin of victory. "I just kept telling people, 'we're working.' And we did. And that's what got us here."

"Today we harvested eight months of hard work by a lot of people," Hodgkins continued. "Eight months of door-to-door canvassing, eight months of sweat, eight months of planning and eight months of getting the voters to the polls."

Hodgkins easily took his hometown of Lee with 1,688 votes, to 428 votes for Hull and 178 for Edelman. He also won big in each



Christopher J. Hodgkins

of his opponents' hometowns, outpolling Hull 1,435 to 829 in Great Barrington and defeating Edelman 220 to 76 in Monterey. Unofficial tallies in Lenox and Stockbridge, the other two larger communities in the district, also had him ahead by about 4-to-1.

Hull was unavailable for comment last night.

"He's gone to bed," said his mother.

Some observers were disappointed by what they described

as Hull's lackluster campaign. His consistently low profile throughout the campaign was in sharp contrast to both Hodgkins and Edelman, who were ubiquitous throughout the district, on hand for every function, sporting event and bake sale in the 17 towns.

The race was also marked by a lack of personal attack, but in retrospect, observers attributed this, too, to Hull's low-profile battle plan.

Edelman said he was "disappointed, but not devastated" by the defeat.

"We did the best we could and it wasn't good enough," he said. "Everywhere I went people were saying 'we need a change, we need a change,' but when it came time to make the change, they stayed with the status quo."

He added that he did not know if this race marked the end of his foray into politics.

Hodgkins said he intended to generate the same energy in his fourth term of office as he did during the race.

"We want to bring the same affirmative strength to this office we had during the campaign," he said. "We know now we can go forward with education, we can go forward with economic growth. Everyone thought I'd be stale this time around, and I think I showed them, we showed them, that that was just not the case."

Award For Lee Artist

LEE -- Gloria Malcolm Arnold, artist and teacher who maintains a studio at 381 East Center St., recently was the recipient of the Grumbacher Award at the fall members show of the Copley Society of Boston. The winning painting is an oil titled "Tea with Alma." The Copley Society has more than 700 members and is the oldest art association in America.

Twenty-five students of Mrs. Arnold are currently exhibiting their work, in oils, acrylics, watercolors and pastels, at the Lee Library Gallery. The show is open during library hours and will continue through November.

Mrs. Arnold recently completed a mural commissioned by the Sweetbrook Nursing Home. The mural now hangs in the lobby of the home's new wing.

Lee sewer smokeout leads to pneumonia

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

11/14/90

LEE The Selectmen, following a recommendation from Road Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, last night voted to accept a bill for hospital expenses incurred by Maxine Silakowski of Water Street, who contracted pneumonia when she inhaled smoke generated by a contractor hired by the town.

The smoke was blown through the town's sewer system as part of a service by the town's engineers, Tighe & Bond of Northampton. The smoke helps the firm discover any leaks in town pipes.

Silakowski's son, Michael Silakowski, told the board that his mother suffered a relapse of pneumonia when she inhaled the smoke Nov. 2. He said the smoke is not generally toxic but contains a small amount of zinc oxide, which can be a respiratory irritant. His mother, he said, has a history of respiratory problems and had just gotten over a bout with pneumonia.

Silakowski said his mother, who lives in a mobile home, first noticed she was having difficulty breathing at about 4:30 on Nov. 2. By 6:30, according to her daughter-in-law, Patricia Silakowski, "she couldn't even breathe."

The couple called the family physician, who recommended that Maxine Silakowski be taken to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. The woman spent two nights and a day there in an oxygen tent, her daughter-in-law said.

Michael Silakowski said that when he arrived at his mother's home he saw no smoke, "but there was a distinct chemical smell in the air."

He theorized that the smoke entered the trailer by means of a small air intake valve under the trailer.

Silakowski said that, ironically, his mother had closed the doors and windows in the trailer when she saw the whitish smoke rising from sewer drains on the street. The closed trailer apparently exacerbated the situation.

Selectman Joseph DuPont said he had consulted with Scolforo, who acknowledged that the smoke from the sewers was the culprit. He apologized to the Silakowskis.

Maxine Silakowski, reached later at her home, said she was feeling better. She said she had no idea as yet of what her medical bills would be.

Patricia Silakowski suggested to the board that the next time the town smokes its sewer system, it warn residents with a history of respiratory problems about the procedure. DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova and the Selectmen agreed.

Lee High inducts 14 into honor society

LEE -- Lee High School's National Honor Society has inducted 14 members into its ranks.

Honored at the Oct. 25 ceremony were the following students in the class of 1992: Jodi Abderhalden, Rebecca Allen, Kerry Brazee, Cathleen Cinella, Sheila Collins, Paul Consolati, Amanda Lahey, Betsy Loring, Travis Roberts, April Slater, Nadine Souza, Heather Stanard and Richard Wescott. Senior Rena Parker also was inducted.

Principal Richard Salinetti gave a welcoming address, and dean of students Kathleen Bort delivered an overview of the 1989-1990 school year.

Former town librarian Betty Dennis delivered a speech to the students about the importance of community service.

Mead gives time frame for co-generation plant

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE -- Mead Corp. hopes to begin construction of its proposed co-generation plant by the spring of 1991, with the completion date sometime early in 1993, the Selectmen learned this week.

Mead is planning to build a 56-megawatt co-generation facility on the west side of its Laurel Mill on Route 102. The plant, which will convert natural gas to steam and electricity, is expected to cost between \$50 million and \$55 million.

President David L. Klausmeyer told the Selectmen that Mead has had several informational meetings with residents, as well as two meetings with the Concerned Citizens of Lee, an activist group that successfully blocked construction of a similar plant on the other side of town by Tenaska Inc. of Nebraska.

Klausmeyer said the meetings generated several suggestions and comments, which Mead has included in its environmental notification report to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

He added that a public hearing will be scheduled, probably in

mid- or late December. Mead will then present the plans for the facility to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for comment by the end of January.

Frank Wright, president of O'Brien Energy Systems, told the board he anticipated "relatively few" comments by the public. O'Brien Energy of Philadelphia, which has constructed five other co-generation facilities across the country, is underwriting the project.

"The main question seems to be noise, and we can handle the noise levels," he said.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. DuPont said he sensed little local opposition to the Mead facility. He added that he believed the site, which is more isolated than Tenaska's Kimberly-Clark Corp. site, was a factor.

"It's a less dense location, and there seems to be a greater sense of trust here" between Mead and abutters, he said.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa agreed, saying she had heard "almost nothing" in opposition.

Klausmeyer said his company "did not plan to do anything to jeopardize the credibility we've built up over the years."

\$7 Million Approved For Mead Improvements

LEE -- The corporate parent of Mead Specialty Paper Division here has approved spending over \$7 million to continue a program to improve paper making machinery efficiency and output begun in 1988.

When the project is finished sometime in 1992, vice president for operations John Genzabella said Wednesday, the company will have invested almost \$20 million in its operations here.

"That's quite a vote of confidence in this division," Mr. Genzabella said, "particularly when times are tough."

"But our markets are expected to grow and the company feels confident making this kind of financial commitment."

The first phase of the upgrade to Specialty Paper's three paper making lines was completed this year. It added about 12 per cent to capacity and cost about \$6.3 million. As a part of that ex-

Please turn to Page 18

Mead Improvements

Continued from

penditure Mead purchased about \$750,000 of machinery from Dalton's Beloit-Jones Division.

Phase 2, which was approved early this week, will cost about \$7.7 million, Mr. Genzabella said and will add another 18 per cent to the lines productivity and efficiency.

Phase 3, which carries a cost of about \$1 million and will add another 8 per cent in throughput, will be submitted to the company's Dayton, Ohio, based board of directors for approval in the middle of next year. If approved, the work will be completed in 1992.

The company also invested about \$3.8 million in 1988 to computerize quality control measures on its Laurel Mill equipment.

Spring start is planned for two controversial Lee housing projects

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE -- The Lee Housing Authority announced yesterday that construction of two long-delayed housing projects on Marble and Laurel streets totaling \$2.5 million should begin by spring.

Housing Authority Chairman Francis D. Foley Jr. said he anticipated drawings and specifications for the two projects to be ready by the end of February, paving the way for the actual work to begin in early spring.

Foley said one advantage of the sluggish economy might be that the projects' respective price tags might be a little less than anticipated.

"Even so, there will be an opportunity here for local contractors to have some work this spring," he said.

The Marble Street project calls for construction of 16 units of moderate-to-low-income housing, a total of 48 bedrooms, for \$2 million. The Laurel Street project will involve the building of a transitional facility for eight mentally handicapped patients at a cost of \$500,000. Clearing of the site has already entailed demolition of a dilapidated four-family home.

Both projects controversial

Both projects were dogged by controversy. The Marble Street facility was the setting for a spirited -- and at times heated -- battle between the Housing Authority on one hand and the Selectmen and the Zoning Board of Appeals on the other. Both the Selectmen and the ZBA ruled against the project because they claimed it violated the town's moratorium on construction and overtaxed the town's sewer system.

Town residents abutting the project also were concerned, citing drainage problems on the site.

After a prolonged series of rulings and appeals that lasted for more than two years, the housing authority won a ruling in state Superior Court that the town's need for affordable housing overrode the moratorium and that drainage and sewer considerations were not sufficient factors in themselves to prevent the project from going through.

The Housing Authority won a \$160,000 state grant earlier this year to address

the drainage problem.

Although the town could have appealed the ruling, the Selectmen voted to let the decision stand, on the grounds that the town had already spent enough money fighting itself.

The project is being funded by a state housing grant.

On Laurel Street, the problem was razing the vacant Victorian home to make way for the new structure. Because the house was constructed using asbestos, the housing authority had to employ a specially licensed contractor to remove and dispose of the substance.

LEE, continued on B3

Housing projects to start in spring

LEE, from B1

The housing authority purchased the building in 1975 for \$43,000 and for several years used it for low-income housing. But the building's deteriorating condition eventually made it unsuitable for habitation. It was abandoned in 1988.

The building was finally taken down earlier this year, Foley said.

Construction of this facility will be funded by a federal housing grant administered by the state Department of Mental Health. It will be turned over to the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, which will in turn empower the Lee Housing Authority to run it.

Lee students raise \$158 for OXFAM

LEE -- The Lee High School chapter of the National Honor Society held an OXFAM dinner Nov. 15.

Students at Lee High School bought rice and donated the remainder of their lunch money to the OXFAM collection. The \$158 collected was given to Third World nations.

Chairmen of this committee were Heather Browne and Denis Ford.

Unionized DPW employees in Lee seek pay hike by town meeting action

way around it just because they can't handle their financial mess," Bean said.

Bean's motion not to pay the bill failed for lack of a second; Dupont and Selectwoman Diane Roosa said they were unsure what the consequences of failure to pay would be.

County Commissioner John J. Pignatelli of Lenox, who said he was making his "annual visit" to his colleagues in Lee, said the bill is like any other tax bill.

"I know how you feel, Bill," said Pignatelli, who also is a selectman in Lenox, "but it's a tax bill and I wouldn't advise not paying it."

In other action, the board noted that the ban on overnight parking on town streets went into effect Nov. 1.

Bean said that the menu at Bill's offers fare other than pizza.

"He also serves filet mignon and other steaks along with pizza," Bean said.

Rumph said that the town should adopt a consistent policy regarding the issuance of beer and wine licenses.

Also Monday, a bill reflecting the town's assessment for county government was discussed. Bean noted that the bill, which was for about \$19,000, is roughly \$6,000 higher than the taxation limit imposed on cities and towns by Proposition 2½.

"I don't think we should pay it. It's not fair for the state to impose a limit on us and then find a

firm's bill may approach \$9,000, more than enough to grant the raises it seeks.

Action postponed

In another matter, the board postponed until Nov. 26 deliberation on an application from Pizza Hut for a beer and wine license at its Park Street restaurant. The restaurant's manager was not present, and the board decided that since the manager's name would be on the license, he should attend the meeting.

Leonard Furman, a district manager for Pizza Hut, said that the restaurant's operation in the town could be jeopardized if the license is not granted.

"I can't buy that," said Selectman William D. Bean. "Since I've been on this board, we have

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE -- An effort is being made to obtain raises for six Department of Public Works employees by the direct action of a town meeting, even though the six are represented by a union currently negotiating with the town.

Paul Porrini, one of the six DPW employees, presented the Selectmen Monday night with a petition asking that an article be placed on the warrant of a special town meeting Dec. 17 calling for the appropriation of enough money to give the six 5 percent raises. He said the petition had been signed by more than 100 voters.

Porrini said that he presented the petition not as a union member but "as a taxpayer."

Laliberte Toy Fund opens drive

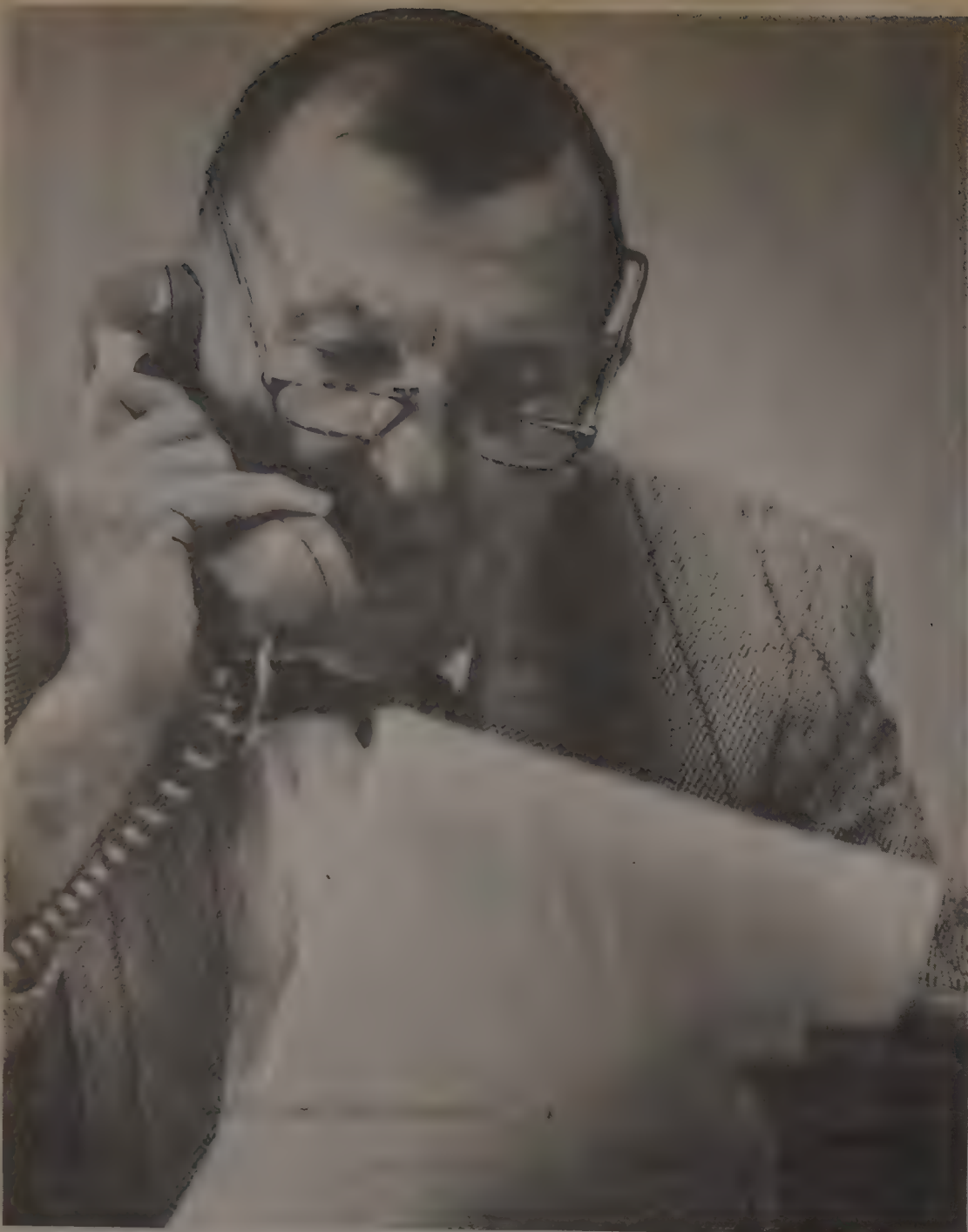
LEE -- The Ed Laliberte Toy Fund opened its 1990 fund drive Wednesday with this year's goal set at \$3,400. The toy fund is sponsored by the Lee Police Association and is open to children under 10 who reside in Lee, South Lee and Lenox Dale, and whose families suffer a financial hardship that makes providing Christmas toys a burden.

The Toy Fund was started in 1958 by the late Edward Laliberte, a former Lee police officer, who repaired toys and gave them to disadvantaged youths at Christmas. Last year's toy fund provided Christmas toys to more than 75 children in the Lee area.

Donations and requests for toys may be mailed to Post Office Box 278, Lee, Mass., or they can be dropped off at the town dispatch center in the Town Hall or given to any Lee police officer. Donations can be in two categories: in lieu of Christmas cards or in memory of loved ones.

Toys will be distributed Saturday, Dec. 22. All those receiving toys will be notified by mail on details of pickup.

14.



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Henry T. Zukowski displays a variety of expressions during the course of an interview.

Goal 11.17.90

Working man

They say Supt. Zukowski works too hard

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Lee, Otis and Tyringham school committees gave Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski his annual review this week. No big deal, every school official gets a review sooner or later. But in Zukowski's case, the school committees seemed to be reaching a bit. Their only complaint was that Zukowski works too hard.

"He does, he does," said Lee School Committee Chairman Edward M. Lahey. "The man works

days, nights, weekends. He loves his job. But we're afraid he's going to kill himself someday. That recommendation was made in absolute seriousness."

"Well," said his secretary, Debbie Holmes, "he does work a lot. I mean, his favorite places to eat are Burger King and Joe's [Diner]. People call here at all hours of the day because they know he's here. But I have to say, he always has the best interests of the kids at heart."

"Ah, he's always been this way,"

said longtime Lee School Committee member Joseph C. Savery. "He never takes a vacation, but he's always working for the kids of Lee. So we like to kid him, because he does work too damn hard."

In 1987, Zukowski took over the superintendency of the Lee School District, which includes Otis and Tyringham in addition to Lee. Before that, he was principal of Lee High School for four years and a teacher in the district since 1951. At 64, he has the energy of some-

WORK, continued on B6

Zukowski on the job

11-17-90

■ WORK, from A1
one half his age.

"Oh jeez, his poor wife," said another school official. "He is in his office on weekdays, weekends. His big night out is dinner at Joe's."

Zukowski takes all this with the good humor of a man who loves his job.

"I have a standing date with my wife every Friday night," he said, in response to his critics. "We go out to eat at Joe's and we love it. Besides, her father was a principal so she knew what to expect when she married me."

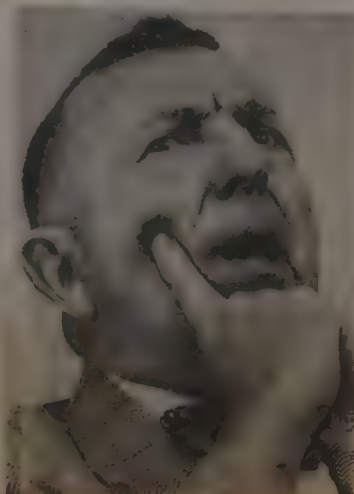
"What can I say?" he said. "I work with very nice people. Debbie Holmes. What a nice person!"

never stay on a golf course all day long."

Zukowski said he is at work so much "because I travel to Otis and Tyringham during the week, and come into the office on weekends to take care of my correspondence."

Does this mean every superintendent should put in seven days a week?

"Oh no," he said, emphatically. "The time I put in is not really required. What it comes down to, I'm a very enthusiastic person. And you know, it's contagious. If you could see the enthusiasm we have in this school system. What a school we have! It's terrific."



10/24/90

Laurel Lake drawdown set to combat weed problem

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A representative from Kimberly-Clark Corp. told the Selectmen Monday night his company has authorized the first-ever drawdown of Laurel Lake to enhance weed control in that body of water.

Roger G. Scheurer told the board his company intended to draw down the lake 6 to 8 feet over a period of several weeks. The drawdown, slated to start in early December, is the first ever in Kimberly-Clark's history. It will enable the company to perform some maintenance work on its dam and, more importantly, help control the level of the weeds, he said.

The expanding weed problem has been a source of concern for town officials. Some officials believe the weed problem has had something to do with two drownings in the lake in the past 14

months. Kimberly-Clark, which owns the lake, has been cooperative in efforts to control the weed problem, short of drawing it down.

Scheurer told the Selectmen his company was happy to draw down the lake, "but the problem was how we would operate our plant." The plant on Laurel Lake uses water from the lake in its papermaking operations.

Scheurer said Kimberly-Clark will be able to get by during the drawdown period by conserving and using other sources of water.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont applauded the move.

"Anything that will help the weed problem, I think is great," he said.

The board also approved a \$168,000 Massachusetts Small Cities Grant for constructing a drainage system on Marble Street and approved a Halloween party at the Lee Youth Association for Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7.

11/25/90 Eagle 15

Lee High School names 75 students to honor roll

LEE — Seventy-five students, or 24 percent of a total enrollment of 318, have been named to the honor roll at Lee High School in the first marking period.

Of these, 29 received high honors and 46 honors. To obtain high honors, a student must have an average of 90 or above with no grade under 80 and to obtain honors, a student must have a grade average of 85-90 with no grade under 75.

High honors

Grade 12: Cynthia Cahalen, Ariel Collins, Melissa LaGrant, Steven Mack, Michele Naventi, Rhonda Nixon, Vanessa Piacentino.

Grade 11: Rebecca Allen, Cathleen Cinella, Sheila Collins, Renee Cory, Amanda Lahey, Ralph Olds, April Slater, Richard Weiscott.

Grade 10: Samuel Fix, Mark Grady, Elana LaGrant, Michael Puntin, William Roche, Karen Scheurer.

Grade 9: Sarah Burt, Heidi Clauss, Chris Eccher, Nathan Jones, Kasey McManmon, Kelly Palmer, Joshua Shaw, Allison Skowron.

Honors

Grade 12: Kathy Antoniazzi, Timothy Bianco, Doreen Eckert, Denis Ford, Rena Parker, Michelle Phillips, Michelle Pipa, Richard Puleri, Rebecca Rollins, Jeffrey Schilling, Nicole Souza, Alastair Taylor, Tony Viola.

Grade 11: Jodi Abderhalden, Aaron Brighenti, Paul Consolati, Sheila Guercio, Melissa

Hayes, Kristie Holian, Betsy Loring, Lisa Pyenson, Travis Roberts, Kathleen Salinetti, Craig Simmons, Rebecca Soules, Nadine Souza.

Grade 10: Gwendolyn Goehring, Tammy Higgins, Thomas Logsdon, Timothy Logsdon, Felicia Piacentino, Kelsey Scarpa, Rebecca Sutton, Derek Walker.

Grade 9: James Braim, Lee Brighenti, Dave Cornellier, Jenny Cory, Amy DiMario, Dennis Griffin, Melanie North, Ruth Olds, Jennifer Pixley, Jeffrey Puleri, Danica Vaninetti, Elisheva Verdi.

Lightning sets Lee Sportsmen's Club afire as freak storm rocks Berkshire houses

By Carol Sliwa
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A bolt of lightning took aim at a flagpole near the Lee Sportsmen's Club early yesterday morning, cracking the building's foundation and igniting a fire, as a freak thunderstorm rumbled through the Berkshires, rocking houses from Tyringham to Pittsfield.

"I was in an atomic bomb test area in Yucca Flat, Nevada, back in 1954," said Joseph Sorrentino, owner of Joe's Diner in Lee, "and it reminded me of that. You had that big, big flash and roar, and then the ground shook. That's exactly how the atomic bomb felt."

That flash connected with a flagpole, roughly 30 feet from the Lee Sportsmen's Club on Fairview Street, with a force so great that it forged a four-foot hole into the earth and shot a 5-foot tall shrub 75 feet from its roots, according to Philip G. Hiser Jr., the club's vice president.

Electrical wiring melted, a 1/2-inch to 1-inch thick gas pipe arced around safety insulation, and a gas heater's valve blew out as the lightning made its way from the pole underground to the foundation of the club, according to

11.25.96

The flash connected with a flagpole, with a force so great that it forged a four-foot hole.

Fred Warden, assistant fire chief in Lee.

The bolt also cut out an 8-inch section of a water pipe 5 feet underground, Hiser said.

The blaze was brought under control in about 20 minutes, thanks to an early reporting of the fire by Cliff Briggs, a volunteer fireman who happened to be driving by at the time.

"If he hadn't been out," Warden said, "it probably would have been fully involved by the time someone spotted it."

The fire was confined to a 50-by-30-foot addition at the northwest corner of the club.

When asked the time of the blast, Hiser didn't hesitate for second.

"12:51 a.m.," he said. "The clock is still set at that."

At the same time, blasts of thunder

woke residents around Berkshire County, reportedly even breaking some windows at homes in Lee, prompting many to speculate whether an earthquake had hit the area.

However, Bruce W. Presgrave, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey's national earthquake information center in Golden, Colo., found no reports of earthquake activity in the area.

He said he had also received some calls from Nashua, N.H., but seismographs noted no quakes there either.

"Storm activity could conceivably produce airwaves perceived over a fairly wide area," Presgrave said, drawing an analogy to a sonic boom effect. "When a sonic boom occurs, it's often perceived as an earthquake."

Eagle meteorologist George Bulgarelli did not doubt any of the observations of the storm's fury.

"Many years ago, I was three feet from lightning striking a tree," he said. "I wasn't hit, but I was airborne by about three feet for a split second."

He said if several storms hit over a broad front that moves from west to east,

LEE, continued on B6

Lightning melts wiring at Sportsmen's Club

LEE, from B1

that might produce the sort of effect experienced in the Berkshires.

"A cold front came through in the early morning hours and this [Saturday] evening it's off the eastern seaboard," said Eagle meteorologist George Bulgarelli. "It was accompanied by some thunderstorms to the south, with lightning, rain, thunder and wind. And this is not an extraordinary occurrence in November, although it is only occasional."

Power was knocked out to 746 customers in Dalton and 123 customers in Lee in the area of Fairview and Stockbridge streets, according to Pamela Grassetti, a

spokeswoman for Western Mass. Electric Company.

Wiring destroyed

Hiser said the Lee Sportsmen's Club's security system and electrical wiring were destroyed, along with the wiring for an outdoor skeet and trap range, Heiser said. Floor joists were charred, an indoor archery range burned, a lawn tractor was damaged and rooms were covered with soot.

The club will be closed until further notice, Hiser said, since there is no electricity, heat or water. He said anyone interested in helping him clean the club and rebuild the addition should contact him.

LEE

Pizza Hut Granted Liquor License

LEE -- The Selectmen Monday voted 2-1 to grant a beer and wine license to Pizza Hut on Park Street. Selectman William D. Bean opposed the license, saying the applicant was a "pizza parlor." Selectman Diane P. Roosa said the business is a "family-style restaurant."

Lightning Starts Sportsmen's Club Fire

LEE -- A freak storm Nov. 24 sent a bolt of lightning to a flagpole near the Lee Sportsmen's Club on Fairview Street, flashing and igniting a fire in the building's electrical box. The fire was seen by a passerby who immediately called the blaze in. Lee Volunteer Firemen brought the blaze under control. The club will be closed until repairs are made.

Lee teen-agers suggest activities

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee High School teacher Kathleen Hall and student Christina Fulcher have presented the Selectmen with a survey outlining various activities teen-age residents of town would like to see initiated.

The survey was presented to the board Monday as part of an ongoing program of communication between the Selectmen and a group of teen-age residents who habitually gather on Main Street. Earlier this year, following run-ins with the police, the group visited the Selectmen in hopes that the board could mediate the dispute.

The survey listed many things, but Fulcher told the board that essentially, she and her peers were looking for a place they could hang out without being in violation of any laws or town by-laws. She admitted that the group was looking for a large space or building because of the size of the group, often as large as 25 to 30 people.

Selectman Joseph DuPont said he was distressed because the survey seemed to relay the fact that many of the teens wanted a place to go but were unwilling to work for it. As an example, he read that 77 residents wanted a place to hang around but only 41 were willing to work for it.

"That seems to me that if we do give them something, they won't appreciate it," he said.

Fulcher countered that the survey was a guideline, adding that it would rarely be necessary for all the individuals surveyed to work anyway. Later, she admitted

she was disappointed that the board chose to focus on the fact that a certain number of students did not want to do the work instead of seeing that almost half were interested in helping out.

Hall, who has many of the teens in her history class at Lee High School, said that educating the teens to be responsible was part of the work that needed to be done.

"It's a learning process," she said, "and if they can be educated properly, they'll understand how they can work to get something."

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino pointed out that the problem of teens finding a place to congregate has existed for many years.

"We've had four or five surveys over the past 10 years and they all said the kids need a place to hang out," she said.

Carlino said the Lee Youth Association was initiated to provide part of the answer. The top floor of the LYA, she said, was specifically set aside for teen-age residents.

"I know the LYA has a kind of negative connotation for many of the kids," Carlino said, "but the floor is there for you. If you could find an acceptable chaperon, it might be a good place to go."

Fulcher said that the LYA might be a consideration, but added that the space was extremely small for the 50 or so young people who would be looking for a place to go.

DuPont said the board would examine the survey and see if any of the suggestions were feasible. Selectman William D. Bean said he would investigate and see whether an ice-skating rink could be set up this winter.

Last available beer licenses granted in Lee

LEE — With the granting of two on-premises beer and wine licenses last night, the Board of Selectmen filled the town's glass, in a manner of speaking, to the brim.

The Selectmen's secretary, Pauline "Bobbie" Pollard, observed after the granting of the second license, that it was the fifth such license to be awarded and, under laws governing the licenses, the last one available.

After short public hearings, the licenses were granted, in order, to Athena's Pizza House at 20 Housatonic St. and Noni's Pizzeria at 5 Eaton St.

In recent weeks, the Selectmen had granted similar licenses to Bill's Restaurant on Center Street and the Pizza Hut at 41 Park St. Rossi's Restaurant at 78 Main St. has held a beer and wine license for some time.

Athena's and Noni's licenses were granted on 2-1 votes, William D. Bean dissenting each time. He said it was consistent with his votes on previous applications.

The proprietor of Noni's, Kevin M. Roosa, said he wouldn't apply for a license "if I didn't have to," but "competition in Lee is crazy."

Attorney Bernard R. Starr of Pittsfield, representing Athena's owner Christos Grigoropoulos, said the latter has invested \$225,000 in his restaurant "and it's important that he succeed. He finds customers asking if he serves beer or wine and has been concerned that he's losing business to the competition."

"I think we have enough adequate places in town to purchase beer and wine," said Bean.

Lee Oil granted permit to store propane cylinders

LEE — Over the protests of abutters, the Selectmen granted a permit this week to Lee Oil to use a 100-gallon propane fill tank and to store six 100-gallon cylinders at its Ferncliff Avenue property.

The board, however, told owner William Miller that he could not park a 2,400-gallon tanker truck on the property. Miller has applied to park the truck on property he owns on Maple Street. A hearing will be held on that application on Monday.

Predictably, the permit approval met with the disapproval of residents of Ferncliff Avenue. Janice E. Welcome of 34 Ferncliff Ave. said last night she was puzzled that the permit was granted over the objections of Fire Chief Ronald Driscoll and 82 residents who petitioned against it.

"I am upset, because the Selectmen didn't listen to the fire chief or us," she said. "It didn't seem like a fair decision."

Evacuation

The controversy was touched off last October, when one of Miller's trucks sprung a propane leak and caused the evacuation of most of Ferncliff Avenue. Residents complained to the Selectmen, who learned from Driscoll that Miller did not have a permit to store propane at his business and would have to apply for one.

At a contentious public hearing a few weeks later, Miller and several residents of the street traded accusations. Miller told the board at the time that if he were not allowed to store propane at the site he would be

forced out of business.

The Selectmen ruled Monday that the storage tanks had not caused a problem, but the truck had, hence their decision.

Welcome said she did not plan any further opposition to the ruling, "but I guess we'll have to pray nothing else happens there."

Mead gift helps reduce restoration debt

LEE — David L. Klausmeyer, president and general manager of Mead Corp.'s Specialty Papers Division, has presented a \$1,000 check from Mead to help pay for the restoration of the towering steeple of the Lee Congregational Church.

The Rev. Walter S. Ryan, pastor emeritus of the church, said that this gift, together with a recent anonymous gift of \$1,500, has reduced outstanding debt for the restoration project to about \$14,000.

The overall cost was more than \$150,000. It included restoration of the church's tallest spire, the final, the tower, clocks and interior. The church is listed in the register of National Historic Landmarks.

Ryan was co-chairman of a restoration committee that worked with the staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, engineers and architects. John Arnold was the other co-chairman.

People wishing to support the project may give contributions to any member of the committee. Other members include Robert W. Lester, William O'Brien, Faith Reynolds, Mary Bradbury and Timothy Groman.

Dupras winner of DAR award at Lee High School

LEE — Brenda Dupras, daughter of Richard and Rita Dupras of Prospect Street, recently was selected to receive the Daughters of the American Revolution, Ausotunnoog Chapter, Good Citizen Award at Lee High School for the 1990-91 academic year.

During her four years at the school, Dupras has been a member of the varsity soccer, tennis and basketball teams, the Foreign Language Club, the Drama Club, School Improvement Council and the Student Advisory Committee to the School Committee.

She also was Student Council secretary and vice president and involved in peer education and the advanced leadership program.

Dupras has been a volunteer soccer coach and volunteer youth basketball assistant coach at the Lee Youth Association. She also has served on the Prom Committee and yearbook staff and is a volunteer for the Carnivalfest as well as a physical education-special education teaching aide.

She plans to attend either the Elms College or Berkshire Community College.

Lee board delays decision on permit for propane truck

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — At a public hearing where confusion and controversy vied for prominence last night, the Selectmen tabled an application by William Miller to park a propane-filled truck he uses for his business on property he owns on Maple Street.

The board continued the hearing until Jan. 14, which did not sit well with Miller or his attorney, Leonard H. Cohen of Pittsfield. Miller asked the board where he could store his truck until then, since it was at this point not licensed to be anywhere in the town of Lee.

"What do I do, move it from place to place every night?" Miller asked.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont told Miller he would have to make arrangements with someone already licensed to park the truck until the board could rule on the application.

Cohen was troubled by that ruling, however.

"I think your bylaws require that you make a ruling on [where to park the truck]," he said. "You can't just tell the guy, 'We don't want you parking anywhere in the town of Lee until we say so.' You're putting him out of business."

But Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully opined otherwise.

"Your problem is the application," he advised the board. "His is where to park his truck."

Selectman William Bean said he would be willing to work with Miller to find a place for the truck.

Maple Street residents expressed their extreme reluctance to see the propane-filled truck parked in their neighborhood.

Rodney F. and Christine Clark

of Maple Street told the board they believed that a 1986 oil spill from equipment owned by Miller contaminated their well.

Miller "has not proven he can be responsible with his oil," said Christine Clark. "Why should we believe he can be responsible with propane?"

Brandishing a vial of what he claimed was water from Clark's well, Bean said he contacted the Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of the couple. Bean said the DEP planned to visit the site and test the well and soil for contaminants tomorrow.

Cohen countered that the 1986 spill was not conclusively proven to be from Miller's equipment. He added that until tests proved that, the board should not let the information taint its decision.

"We have never had a complaint by any state or federal agency on contamination up there," he said.

Miller said he heard the area may be contaminated by poly-

chlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, spilled when transformers from Western Mass. Electric Co. power lines were repaired or changed over the years. Miller suggested that might be the cause of the contamination of the wells.

"If that's the case, everyone has a problem, including us," Cohen added.

Miller's woes did not end there. A little later in the meeting, DuPont read two appeals by abutters of the Selectmen's decision last week to award Miller a propane storage license at his business on Ferncliff Avenue. Citing the residential nature of the area, the potential harm from an explosion and the disapproval from the town building inspector and fire chief, state Fire Marshal Joseph A. O'Keefe upheld the appeals. In a letter to the board, O'Keefe said a public hearing on the appeal would be held within 45 days in Lee.

Until then, O'Keefe ruled, Miller's license to store propane could not be exercised.

Kelly Reinstated As Foreman

Courier 12.20.90

LEE — A state arbitrator has ruled that Dennis Kelly be returned to his position as foreman with the Lee Highway Department. The Department of Public Works board eliminated that position, because of budget constraints, earlier this year. To save \$1,000, however, it spent \$4,500 on arbitration. Arbitrator David R. Bloodsworth concluded that the DPW "acted discriminatorily when it eliminated the position of working foreman," according to a report in the daily press.

DPW told to reinstate Kelly as foreman in Lee

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In a report critical of the town's Department of Public Works board, a state arbitrator this week restored the job of foreman to a member of the town's Highway Department and ordered the town to pay him about 10 months in lost back wages.

In his report, filed Monday, arbitrator David R. Bloodsworth ruled in favor of Dennis Kelly, restoring his title as working foreman, giving him about \$800 in back pay and allowing him the use of a town vehicle.

Kelly had been stripped of that job description when the town DPW eliminated the position, citing budget constraints. The elimination of the position saved the town about \$1,000. Ironically, in going to arbitration, the town had to spend about \$4,500 on Kelly's case.

In his decision, Bloodsworth found that the DPW "acted discriminatorily when it eliminated

the position of working foreman." He added that from his reading of town records, "there is evidence that the board had been trying to demote Kelly" without cause.

Bloodsworth ruled that the town could have presented witnesses rebutting this contention, but did not.

He also ruled that although cost savings may have been a factor, it was not the overriding reason. Bloodworth wrote that although the DPW said it eliminated the position, "this argument cannot be reconciled with the facts. It is my finding that the town did not eliminate the functions of that classification; instead it assigned them outside the bargaining unit."

Bloodworth cited the fact that the DPW board reassigned Kelly's leadership duties to Highway Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, and even agreed to let Kelly fill in as foreman in Scolforo's absence.

Kelly, who has worked for the town for 17 years and had been a foreman for 10, said yesterday he felt vindicated that the arbitrator ruled in his favor.

"They were going after the little guy, and it's not right," he said of the DPW board members. "I'm glad the arbitrator saw it my way."

He added that the situation between the Highway Department and the town DPW board was still unresolved.

"It's a bad situation down there, and I guess I'll just have to go from here," he said. "It's a shame it has to be done this way. We've never had to go to arbitration before as long as I've been on the Highway Department."

Have Gas Truck, Will Travel

(Because It Can't Be Parked In Town) Courier 12.13.90

LEE — William Miller lost twice Monday before town authorities on matters having to do with his propane gasoline business.

The Selectmen tabled his application to park a propane-filled truck on property he owns on Maple Street.

And Fire Marshal Joseph O'Keefe upheld an appeal by abutters of a Miller property on Ferncliff Avenue preventing Mr. Miller from storing the gas there.

Neither decision pleased Mr. Miller or his attorney, Leonard Cohen of Pittsfield, who claimed the actions would put his client out of business.

The Selectmen's ruling set over until Jan. 14 any decision on where Mr. Miller was to park the truck. Maple Street residents had expressed concern about having a vehicle loaded with an explosive gas parked outside their homes.

Mr. Cohen objected to the delay since the board gave his client no direction on what he should do with the truck in the meantime.

Fire Marshall O'Keefe's actions overturned a favorable ruling by the selectmen last week awarding Mr. Miller a propane storage license on Ferncliff. He cited the residential nature of the neighborhood, the potential of an explosion as well as the earlier disapproval of the application by the building inspector and fire chief as his reasons.

Mr. Miller can appeal that decision to a public hearing within 45 days.

Nagle resigns as Lee clerk after 22 years

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — John J. Nagle, 64, this town's town clerk and treasurer for 22 years, submitted his resignation to the Selectmen last night, effective Jan. 9.

He recommended in his formal letter to the board that his assistant, Patricia Carlino, be appointed clerk and treasurer in his place until the annual town elections in May.

She is eminently qualified, he said. Nagle, who is also a member of the Board of Assessors, resigned from that post as well.

He said it is no secret that his health has been failing in recent years, and he gave that as the reason for stepping down from his three posts. He underwent triple bypass heart surgery in 1984 and was out of work for about two months.

He also alluded to a shortage of help in the various offices and said that "some consideration of this problem must be addressed after the 1991 election." After reading that remark, he paused, looked up, and said, "or really before the 1991 election."

The Selectmen accepted the resignation but voiced regret that Nagle was leaving office. "If anything," said Se-

CLERK, continued on B3

Nagle resigns

■ CLERK, from B1
lectman William D. Bean, Nagle "is an institution."

Although they talked about naming Carlino to fill out the unexpired term, the Selectmen took no action.

Carlino herself said they did not have to act until Nagle actually leaves office, and Selectman Diane P. Roosa said the board would take the recommendation under advisement until its Jan. 7 meeting.

Nagle, a native of Lee who was a three-sport athlete at Lee High School, served two years in the Navy during World War II and then, after his discharge, graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester with a bachelor's degree in education.

For three years, he was director of the Catholic Youth Center in Pittsfield, then worked eight years for Crescent Creamery in Pittsfield and 10 years for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. before assuming town office in 1969. He also served as a deputy sheriff and court officer in the Berkshire County Superior Court for a time in the 1960s.

Brenda Dupras Wins DAR Citation

LEE — Lee High School senior Brenda Dupras, daughter of Richard and Rita Dupras of Prospect Street, is recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Ausutuunnoog Chapter, good citizen award.

Miss Dupras has been a member of the school's varsity soccer, tennis and basketball teams, the Foreign Language Club, the drama club, School Improvement Council and the Student Advisory Committee to the School Committee. She has also served as Student Council secretary and vice president and has been involved in peer education and the advanced leadership program.

Courier 12.20.90

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — After debate that Moderator Joseph M. Toole occasionally had to steer into cooler waters, town meeting representatives last night refused to authorize a payment of \$9,000 to a labor relations consulting firm that is negotiating a contract with the town's six-member Highway Department.

However, voting on the second of two articles on the special town meeting warrant, representatives approved spending \$4,500 to pay for work that the firm, Sheridan & Associates of Holyoke, has already done.

The actions mean that the Selectmen now will have to conduct the contract negotiations themselves, said Selectman William D. Bean, who added that he does not relish the prospect.

Specialized field

"Labor law is a very complicated and specialized field," Bean said. "We're going to be sitting across the table from a business agent representing Teamsters Local 404."

Bean said that the Selectmen and the town's seven-member public works board, which oversees the operations of the De-

partment of Public Works, decided last summer that it would be wise to hire the consulting firm.

Joseph Castronova, chairman of the DPW board, said that the decision to retain the firm seemed even more prudent after it took almost seven months last year to reach agreement on a wage package.

Bean and Castronova also were asked how the town came to be committed to the firm, especially since no funds had been allocated specifically for the purpose.

Bean explained that the Selectmen were advised by Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully that the law permits hiring consultants to represent the town in labor negotiations. In addition, said Bean, Scully told the Selectmen that they could pay the consultant out of their own budget, but money from the DPW budget could not be used.

"We weren't trying to put anything over on anyone," Bean said. "We were acting in what we believed to be the best interest of the town."

When the Selectmen asked the Finance Committee for a funds transfer, the committee refused, deciding that the issue should be

brought before a special town meeting, said Bean.

Last night, Scully said that the town was not obligated to pay anything because there was no specific allocation in place.

Several representatives, including Edward Briggs and Martin Deely, said that DPW Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo should be given more control over the department. Their remarks were greeted by shouts and applause from the audience, several members of which said later that labor problems in the DPW have increased since Castronova became chairman of the DPW board.

"That board is like a kangaroo court in there every Monday night," said Briggs. "Instead of spending their time following crews around making sure nobody takes too long a coffee break, they should be working on more important things."

"You might know a little more if you ever attended any of the meetings," Castronova replied.

On a motion from representative Deidre Consolati, the town meeting also instructed the Selectmen to return to the bargaining table. Consolati said that she is confident that good-faith negotiations will result in an equitable solution.

Couple open restaurant in Lee

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Bill's Restaurant, an eatery serving a variety of moderately priced dinners and snacks, opened for business on Center Street last month.

Owners William and Roselyn Constantopoulos spent about \$70,000 over the course of two months renovating the 1,200-square-foot building, which formerly housed a travel agency.

The renovations included installing a full kitchen with two refrigerators, one a walk-in; two large ovens, a grill and a char-broiler. The dining portion of the

restaurant, which seats 36, was carpeted, repainted, resealed and made accessible to the handicapped.

Constantopoulos has been in the food service business for most of his life. His family owned Lee Pizza and later Sophia's Restaurant in Stockbridge. When Sophia's moved to Lenox, he and his wife, both Lee natives, decided to return to Lee to open a business.

Although acknowledging that the economic climate is not ideal for a new business, Constantopoulos said he believes the restaurant will be successful be-

cause of his reputation as a fine cook and his family's reputation as hard workers and fair businessmen.

Bill's offers a variety of dinners, sandwiches and pizzas at moderate prices. Dinners, which range from \$6.95 to \$8.95, include baked lasagna, fish and chips, and baked manicotti. Daily specials are offered.

The restaurant employs nine. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 to 9, Friday and Saturday from 11 to 10 and Sunday from 3 to 9. Bill's is closed Mondays.

Lee students get break from burst water pipe

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A burst hot-water pipe, discovered Friday, forced the closing of Lee High School yesterday and today, putting the 321 students temporarily on the street and confronting the school system with an estimated \$40,000 in emergency repairs.

The building is heated by a forced-hot-water system. Both the heating system and the system providing domestic water for drinking, cooking and showers have been shut down.

If the progress of the repair work is such that the building cannot be fully

reheated or if water for drinking is in any way affected, classes will be suspended again tomorrow, said Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski.

Discussing the repairs yesterday, he made it clear he did not expect such an eventuality.

He would not speculate on the cause of the burst pipe, saying he would await the report of an insurance adjuster who is expected to arrive tomorrow. But he said plumbers and other tradesmen at the site had observed that the pipes, most of them made of black steel, were badly rusted.

James Cavanaugh of the M.T. Cavanaugh Inc. plumbing and heating firm in Great Barrington said rusting indeed appeared to be the cause of the rupture. The pipes were installed when the school was constructed in 1961 and '62.

When new sections of pipe are installed, they will be placed within a concrete vault, called a chase, Zukowski

and Cavanaugh said. In this way, they will not come into direct contact with the earth again.

Zukowski said James D. Gralla, the school buildings and maintenance director, notified him Friday morning that

PIPE, continued on B3

Lee Highway Dept. funding on warrant for town meeting

LEE — A special town meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night at 7 to patch up what on the surface appears to be a routine procedural oversight but which could turn into a donnybrook.

"It's going to be a rip snorter," said one town observer.

On the warrant are two articles. The first is to determine if the town-meeting representatives will transfer \$9,000 from available funds to an account for the hiring of a labor relations consultant "to assist in the handling of grievances and negotiation of a new contract" with employees of the town Highway Department.

The second is to determine if \$1,500 will be included in a similar transfer to cover expenses already incurred by the town's De-

partment of Public Works Board in the handling of grievances filed by Highway Department members.

One of the problems behind the warrant is that the labor relations consultant, Sheridan & Associates of Holyoke, has already been retained by the DPW Board without having budgeted money for the task.

This has generated some warm debates in past weeks among the Selectmen, the DPW Board and Highway Department employees.

The town meeting will be at the Central School on High Street.

Laurel Lake drawdown won't happen this year

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Kimberly-Clark Corp. won't draw down Laurel Lake after all.

In a letter to the Selectmen, William M. Larmon, manager of the company's Lee mills, says the company had intended to lower the lake this month but that because of positions taken by the Lee and Lenox conservation commissions and the state Department of Environmental Protection, "we do not intend to reduce the level of the lake ... at this time."

The news presumably will not sit well with residents of the two towns, which border the lake. Many had looked forward to the winter lowering of the lake as a way of controlling weeds that have made the once-clear lake something of a morass.

"The weed problem is horrendous," said Ronald Gilbert, a member of the board of trustees of the Lakeside Condominiums on the south shore of the lake. Until yesterday, he said, "everybody was excited that [the lowering of the water] would be done."

It would have been the first time.

In his letter, Larmon said Kimberly-Clark through purchase of the property above the original lake level controls the top 12½ feet "and retains the legal right to vary that level within those limits." He said the right was established in a court ruling in 1943, although he did not give any details of the ruling.

"Unfortunately," he wrote, "the Lee and Lenox conservation commissions and the DEP have taken opposing views to this and have said an environmental notification form needs to be filed."

Implying that the filing of such a form would take too much time to permit lowering the water level effectively this winter, he wrote that the company did not intend to lower the lake.

Larmon could not be reached yesterday to elaborate on the decision. Selectman William D. Bean said he holds out hope that with adequate preparation, an agreement could be reached to lower the lake next year.

Lee students get break

■ PIPE, from B1

water was running warm out of the high school's cold-water taps. An inspection turned up evidence of a leak in the ground beneath the boiler room.

An emergency meeting of the School Committee — convened, appropriately, in the boiler room — was held Saturday morning at 8 to authorize the repairs.

Plumbing crews, excavators and welders have been brought to the site. A trench 50 feet long, 10 feet wide and 6½ feet deep was dug along the foundation at the rear of the one-story structure to expose the old pipes and provide room for installation of new ones and construction of the pipe chase.

Workmen have also had to jackhammer entrances into the concrete foundation so that the new connections can be made.

One immediate benefit, said Zukowski yesterday, has been the installation of two new shut-offs that now break the school's water system into two sections. As a result, workmen turned the heat back on in the building's south end yesterday.

Because there had been only one water shut-off before, the entire system was turned off over the weekend. Emergency propane space heaters, donated by the Kimberly-Clark Corp. and Henry's Electric Inc., were brought in to keep the structure warm enough to prevent freezing.

Zukowski said Fire Chief Ronald Driscoll authorized the heaters' use.

Although students will get a couple of days off because of the rupture, their classes will be made up and the school year extended by two days, Zukowski said. The school year had been scheduled to end June 17.

He said it was unlikely that insurance funds would cover any of the damage, but he did find a bright side to the event.

"Think of what would have happened," he said, "if the town hadn't approved the removal of asbestos" two years ago. The repairs would have been considerably more costly and time-consuming, he said.

Until the town voted asbestos-removal funds, the exposed water pipes within the school were coated with the material, long used as an insulator and fire retardant coating around pipes and boilers and in ceilings and walls in both commercial and residential buildings. Its use was outlawed by the federal government in the mid-1970s because of its cancer-causing properties.

In recent years, a number of municipalities across the commonwealth have had asbestos removed from public buildings, particularly schools.

Paper mill sludge may be recycled

Engineer working on using material as landfill cover

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Engineer Robert G. Brown is hanging around the landfill at Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division these days and loving every minute of it.

Brown, a self-described "dirt engineer" whose special satisfaction comes from finding innovative solutions to difficult civil engineering problems, has designed a series of tests that may decide whether sludge from Mead's papermaking operations can be used as landfill cover.

If the state Department of Environmental Protection likes what it sees from Brown's tests and approves its use for that purpose, Mead will have solved one of its growing problems on one hand and perhaps may find another marketable product on the other.

In the 1970s, Mead was ordered by the then Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (now DEP) to treat the sludge-containing water that was one of the end products of its manufacturing. Until that time, the wastes had simply been discharged into the Housatonic River and, in the manner of those pragmatic times, forgotten once it was out of sight.

But as DEQE grew more enlightened, it tightened its regulations on how waste materials were to be handled and Mead found itself facing a large — and constantly growing — problem.

The sludge that was produced by the treatment plant was

stockpiled nearby as company officials debated what to do with it. In 1985, DEQE ordered that it be covered. Mead's environmental manager, George T. O'Neill, suspected that it might be benign enough that further cover was unnecessary. He began negotiations with the state to allow testing and possible innovative solutions.

The traditional solution of hauling in clay or other cover at great expense did not make much sense to him. This year O'Neill hired Brown to find a better way.

Testing stockpile

Brown, who founded Brown Associates Inc. of Pittsfield, with which he no longer is associated, and now is head of Accord Diversified Consultants Inc. of Tillingham, agreed with O'Neill.

He suggested that they test the stockpiled sludge to see how it is behaving and what its characteristics are. DEP further asked him to prove that it would be stable under freezing-melting conditions.

Brown's idea was to build two permeameters to measure the permeability of the sludge, or its tendency to allow water to pass through it. DEP regulations call for landfills to be covered by material that will keep water out, thereby reducing the chance that leachate, the liquid that trash produces when mixed with rain, will contaminate the area.

Brown is convinced that the

Brown is convinced that the sludge is as good a material for cover as clay.

sludge is as good a material for cover as clay, and in many ways will be superior.

On a regular check of the site, Brown clears away some new snow to see how things are progressing. He has installed two tanks, each 6 feet deep and about 5 feet across in the sludge. Each has one vertical pipe mounted to the side of the tank and another welded to an 18-inch plate buried in the sludge.

Measuring absorption

Brown takes a level and lays one end on the edge of the tank. The other he holds on the side of the free pipe. Then he measures the distance from the level to the top of the pipe. It is slowly dropping, telling him how fast the sludge is compressing.

Next he goes down the slope. A polyvinyl chloride pipe from the center of the tank issues water

that is being squeezed by the compression and he estimates how many gallons per day are being produced. This he compares to precipitation and through a series of calculations, Brown finds how much rain is penetrating the sludge.

His initial findings indicate that water passes through at the rate of 1 inch per year, or virtually not at all.

A second, 2-inch pipe, will be used to collect samples from the interior of the tank for physical examination.

"I love this stuff," Brown said, crumbling a small sample of the sludge between his fingers. "It's great stuff."

Brown, whose normally sober engineering face lights up visibly in the presence of innovative techniques or materials, counts the ways. Paper sludge does not erode. He said that recent heavy rains produced a small pond on top of the pile, but as the water ran off, it produced no "delta" of material and the water was absolutely clear both in the pond and at the base of the pile.

Sludge will not blow once it is dry, but at the same time it ap-

SLUDGE, continued on B3

Sludge from paper mill considered as possible landfill cover material

■ SLUDGE, from B1

pears to be impervious to water.

It also is relatively easy to handle. A loader can scoop it up and move it to where it is needed.

Finally, because it is organic material, sludge will grow plants easily. The Mead pile already has weeds sprouting out of its sides, and that just adds to its stability.

One of the reasons is the composition of Mead's sludge. Every paper plant's sludge will differ, Brown noted, simply because of the products they make. Mead's, for instance, contains a high percentage of kaolin clay, a fine, white clay used as a filler for paper. It is the presence of the clay, Brown believes, that contributes to its imperviousness.

It also contains titanium oxide, an inert, or non-hazardous,

chemical, and, because the paper is made from wood pulp, cellulose fiber. Though he has not done direct measurements, the work he has done indicates that the presence of heavy metals in the landfill, traditionally associated with the manufacture of colored paper, is low, perhaps less than what is typically found in soil everywhere.

One good piece of news for Mead is that DEP has suggested to at least two Massachusetts municipalities that they consider paper sludge as landfill cover, Brown said.

Clay appears to be a better cover material for the first six months or so, Brown said, but then paper sludge seems to have the edge. Sludge is far easier than clay to handle when wet, however.

In fact, the tendency of paper sludge in some forms to absorb water has worked in its favor. Brown noted that it has been used as cover in projects that are reclaiming coal strip mines. Often those mines produce an acid leachate that the paper sludge tends to neutralize.

Brown said the tests at Mead are scheduled to continue for at least a year. In the meantime, Mead's papermakers pump out more at the rate of about 18 cubic yards per day.

He is not sure if the paper sludge could be marketed to towns to close their landfills, but at worst, Mead's will be self-covering.

"To me, it's perfect landfill cover," Brown said, going to check the water buckets one more time.

Chairman of Lee School Committee makes pitch to parents in Richmond

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The chairman of the School Committee is concerned that Richmond residents, who are being asked what high school they would like their children to attend, might be overlooking something good: Lee High School.

"I'm afraid Richmond may not be aware of this possibility," said Edward M. Lahey. "I hope someone in Richmond will give us a

look before it's too late."

Since last spring, the Richmond School Committee has been considering alternatives to Taconic High School in Pittsfield, where Richmond students have been receiving their secondary education for more than 20 years.

The committee's investigation was prompted largely by Pittsfield's financial troubles and worry that money woes would diminish the city's commitment to

Taconic.

Representatives of several schools, including Taconic, have made public presentations in Richmond over the past eight months, and the Richmond board recently sent out a questionnaire that solicited residents' preferences among Taconic, Lenox Memorial High School and Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington.

Lee did not make the list, and Lahey said his committee was surprised.

"We're very disappointed that they wouldn't at least consider us," he said. "I felt that we were at least worth a glance."

Indeed, Lahey provided The Eagle with a statement asking Richmond residents to consider Lee High's merits.

"With our current enrollment, we felt we had ample room to offer you acceptance into our system," he wrote. "We are very proud to be able to claim an 80-plus percentage of our seniors journeying to college. Our two National Merit students were ready to be interviewed, our Na-

tional Honor Society and Peer Education students looked forward to showing off their school, and our house builders were more than willing to exhibit the current product of their workmanship."

Lahey also pointed to the success of recent dramatic productions at the school and the strength of its sports programs, which he said "have spread our talent thin, but not too thin to bring home both county and state championships in many fields this past year."

Also, he said, Lee High graduates are now studying at such colleges as Oberlin, Harvard, Amherst, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Cornell.

The distance between Richmond and Lee should not be a heavily negative factor, Lahey's letter said.

"Convenient access to our facilities by way of the Mass Pike, seven miles from West Stockbridge to Lee, would be provided by a safe, well-maintained route," he said.

Lee's prevailing-wage brouhaha

Massachusetts voters have only themselves to blame for the brouhaha over a possible violation of the state's "prevailing-wage" law in work being done on the Lee Town Hall. If voters had favored a 1986 ballot question repealing the law, state officials would not now be wasting their time trying to decide whether laborers on the renovation job worked for less than the prevailing wage, an amount determined by union contracts. The law mandates these wages, often higher than non-union rates, even for non-union contractors, when a job involves any government money. The effect is to make public contracting much more expensive in Massachusetts than it need be. But after a well-financed campaign in defense of the prevailing-wage law, voters in

Eagle
1/2/91

Eagle is no friend to the working man

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The prevailing-wage law passed by a large margin in 1986. In effect, the Massachusetts voters agreed on a fair and honest wage for an honest day's work.

The Town Hall job in Lee was bid as prevailing-wage work. The men are not being paid just scale, and it is only serving to line the contractors' pockets. Whether The Eagle [In Brief, Jan. 2] agrees with the law or not, the fact remains it is the law. I would also like to say that prevailing-wage jobs are heavy construction jobs, far more dangerous and complex than house building. Prevailing-wage work insures experience, quality and above all safety on such jobs. By making statements against this law, The Eagle has proven once again that it is no friend to the average working man.

Lee
SEAN P. BURNS
1/8/91

Carlino named acting treasurer for town of Lee

LEE — The Selectmen have named Patricia Carlino acting town treasurer to succeed John J. Nagle, who retires today from the offices of treasurer and town clerk.

Carlino has been assistant town clerk and treasurer for eight years. Her acting status will expire May 13, the date of the annual town election. She said yesterday she plans to run for both positions.

The Selectmen, meeting Monday night, took no formal action to name her acting clerk on the grounds, cited by Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont, that state statutes specify that an assistant clerk acts as clerk when the clerk is absent.

The one exception will be at the annual town meeting May 9, when the voters will have to elect a clerk. An assistant town clerk cannot automatically serve as the meeting clerk.

Selectmen decided, however, that there was a need to name Carlino acting treasurer so that she could be formally bonded.

Carlino has worked for the town 11 years, the first three of them for the Health Department.

Nagle, 64, who has been clerk and treasurer for 22 years, announced his resignation to the Selectmen on Dec. 17 and recommended that Carlino be named in his place. He praised her work and knowledge of both jobs and strongly urged her appointment.

The Selectmen decided to wait until Monday night before deciding what to do.

Nagle cited poor health as his reason for stepping down.

Eagle 1/9/91

ADD Wallpaper Reproduction News to the list of specialty publications that claim Berkshire County as their home. The thrice-yearly WRN is the handiwork of Robert M. Kelly of Kelly's Wall-covering Installations in Lee. A clearinghouse for "news and comment about new reproduction wallpapers, as well as useful articles on inks, grounds, adhesives and installation techniques," WRN gets a mention in the January-February issue of Historic Preservation.

Eagle 1/6/91

Desert Shield vigil

Eagle 1.7.91

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

A candlelight procession culminated a 24-hour prayer vigil sponsored by Families Aid for Desert Shield outside the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Pittsfield last night. An estimated 65 people read the names of more than 100 Berkshire men and women serving in the Mideast. With candles are Kristie Scarafoni, 11, and Jean Abderhalden, 7, of Lee, and in rear, Sandy Scarafoni, Linda Soules and Ellen Jones.

Lee authorized to seek a town administrator

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In one of the final pen strokes of his term in office that ended last week, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis signed a bill authorizing the town of Lee to move toward the hiring of a town administrator, the first in Lee's history.

A copy of the bill was received by the Selectmen here Monday.

It is the penultimate step in the long process of hiring such an official — if that's what the town

wants to do.

Whether it is or not may depend on the economy and taxpayers' perceptions of the town's fiscal health, not on the merits of the post itself. As Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully observed yesterday, "There used to be some seed money, I think, but I don't believe there is even that now."

If the town should choose to create an administrator's post, it will have to appropriate some money for it, he said. Money is

not in long supply these days.

In effect, the bill empowers the town to reorganize its government. Specifically, it authorizes creation of a "selectmen-administrative form of government" if a majority of voters so approve at an annual town election. This year, the election will be May 13.

But an affirmative vote won't produce an administrator out of thin air. As Scully said, there presumably would have to be an

appropriation and then a search for candidates.

Hiring of a full-time administrator was recommended in a 1988 report prepared for the town by consultant David A. Booth, a professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts.

In 1989, town meeting representatives backed the submission of a bill to the Legislature that would authorize the change.

That's the one Dukakis just signed.

Oil Storage License After Heated Debate

LEE — The debate was sometimes heated and the vote divided but by the end of the public hearing before the Selectmen Monday Lee Oil had its license to store propane gas at its terminal on Maple Street.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph Dupont and board member Diane Roosa voted in favor. William Bean dissented.

Mr. Dupont said he favored granting the license because "they've been doing this for 35 years."

Mr. Bean said that regardless of whether the company once had a license for storage of the gas it still has failed to meet state and federal safety standards and to conform to town zoning bylaws.

In what may have been the understatement of the stormy hearing, Mr. Bean said "I don't think this is over yet."

Lee Oil, owned by William Miller, has been storing propane gas both on Maple Street and at its headquarters on Ferncliff Avenue for years. Mr. Miller's attorney, Leonard Cohen of Pittsfield, told the selectmen he even found a permit issued in April of 1955 — the year after the Millers bought the company — authorizing it.

The fact that there was a permit, he said, presupposes a license because state law requires one before the other can issue. He also said the company each year had received registration certificates indicating it was duly licensed.

Town counsel Jerome Scully didn't buy that argument, however.

"The burden is on you to prove it (that Lee Oil has a license)", he told Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Bean said his search of town records does in fact show licenses being granted in 1950 for Maple Street and 1968 for Ferncliff. Those licenses, however, were for fuel oil storage, he said, not propane.

What lies behind the sometimes acrimonious debate is a propane spill from a Lee Oil truck last September on Ferncliff.

Fire Chief Ronald Driscoll ordered residents to evacuate their homes for more than an hour even though Mr. Miller contended that no more than a gallon of the gas had escaped.

Chief Driscoll said a subsequent check of the records turned up no storage permit for the site and residents subsequently petitioned the selectmen to remove the business from the area.

The selectmen, again by a 2-1 vote, granted the company a storage license in November but without permission to park its 2,400-gallon truck there. Residents then took their case to the state fire marshal's office which is expected to hold an appeal hearing within the next few weeks.

Pending that hearing, Mr. Miller petitioned the selectmen for permission to park the truck at its Maple Avenue terminal. That hearing began Nov. 29 but was continued until Monday evening.

Residents say they are concerned about possible future leaks such as might be caused by an employee failing to close a valve, or a major leak.

For his part, Mr. Miller says the new truck is fully automated (meaning valves close automatically) and that he is willing to construct dikes to contain any spills. "I don't want trouble from my neighbors," he said.

"And anyway, if there was a risk, I wouldn't be in the business because I drive the truck."

Lee's jilted consultant considers suing town

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A professional negotiating firm, suddenly chopped from its collective-bargaining role for the town, is considering a lawsuit to obtain what it believes it is owed.

Whether a suit will actually be filed is not certain.

Daniel Sheridan, a partner in Sheridan & Associates of Holyoke, said the firm does not comment on work it does for clients, but he did say legal action against Lee was under active consideration.

Still no money

Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully said this past week that a lawsuit would not surprise him, but he repeated what he said at a special town meeting Dec. 20: that since there was no appropriation to pay Sheridan, Sheridan cannot expect to recover.

The firm was hired last summer by the town's Department of Public Works board to negotiate with the town's six-man highway department crew, represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

But the hiring has been fraught with controversy. For one thing, the board hired Sheridan without having budgeted funds specifically for the work. Next, the Finance Committee refused to transfer money within the Selectmen's budget to cover the expense.

Finally, the special town meeting on Dec. 20 rejected a proposal to appropriate \$9,000 to cover

Sheridan's impending costs. The town meeting did agree to appropriate \$4,500 to cover whatever expenses Sheridan may have already incurred, but the refusal to appropriate the \$9,000 effectively stopped the firm in its tracks.

Much of the heat during the meeting was directed at Joseph Castronova, chairman of the DPW board. He was blamed by some town officials and town meeting representatives for hiring Sheridan before money was available to pay it.

The Selectmen, meeting last Monday night for the first time since the Dec. 20 town meeting, agreed that they will now have to act as the town's negotiating arm, with advice from Town Counsel Scully.

Mentioned in letters

Scully said that, although there is no specific document that can be described as a contract between Lee and Sheridan, there was an exchange of letters between the DPW board and Sheridan about the costs of representation. This is where the \$9,000 figure arose.

As it became clear at the end of December that the town was not going to put up money, Scully said he suggested that Sheridan conclude the negotiations it had started and submit a final bill.

"Sheridan said no," he said.

Actually, the firm has been paid \$750 in response to bills it has submitted to date, according to acting Town Treasurer Patricia Carlinio.

If Sheridan files suit, "I'll prepare a defense," said Scully.

High costs jeopardize Lee streetlights

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — This town is using more light than it has money allocated for, and the superintendent of public works will have to seek a transfer of funds if every fifth streetlight is not to be turned off.

In fact, he will have to seek a transfer anyway just to cover the extra cost of streetlighting since July 1.

But the superintendent, J. Peter Scolforo, has received support from the Department of Public Works board and, as recently as last Monday, from the Selectmen to seek such a transfer.

To turn off, say, 75 of the town's 338 streetlights, which is Scolforo's projection of what might be necessary, would not be a good idea, both boards say.

The discrepancy came to light, Scolforo said, when Western Mass. Electric Co., which supplies power to Lee, conducted an audit of its lights during the fall and found it was billing the town for too few.

He said he compared the audit with his own list and found them to be in precise agreement.

The town budgeted \$37,000 for streetlighting for the current fiscal year, which began July 1. It will need between \$40,000 and \$42,000 by year's end — not a big piece of change, but enough to be noticed if a fifth of the lights were turned off.

On top of everything else, the power company won a rate increase last year and upped its charges by 8.3 percent in July, Scolforo said.

In the days before passage of Proposition 2½ in 1980, the town had 666 streetlights, said Scolforo after checking his records. "We immediately cut about 250," he said, making sure that the siting of the remainder gave priority to intersections, cul-de-sacs and schools and other public buildings. In the intervening years, a few other lights have been taken out as they have been repositioned.

He said the power company also has installed on nearly all of the light poles high-intensity sodium vapor lamps that are more energy- and cost-efficient than the older mercury vapor and incandescent lamps.

By way of example, he said, a 5,000-lumen sodium vapor lamp uses 5 watts of electricity com-

pared to 40 watts used by a mercury vapor lamp of the same intensity. A lumen is a standard unit of light flow.

Scolforo had recommended to both boards that no more lights be cut from service. "We have a lot more people requesting lights these days than we did a few years ago," he said. "I have to say we can't give them any more."

Debris burning rules set

CHESHIRE — Open burning of certain kinds of natural debris may begin Jan. 15, according to Fire Chief George P. Sweet.

Brush, cane, driftwood and limbs may be burned between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. until May 1. Grass, hay, leaves and stumps may not be burned, the chief said.

Lightning-struck Lee Sportsmen's Club struggles to regroup

Struggling to regain its feet after nearly being knocked out by a bolt of lightning on the night of Nov. 24, the Lee Sportsmen's Club is appealing to its members and friends for help.

They are being asked to participate in one or more of five income-producing activities: Membership drive, dinner dance, raffle, donations, and skeet and trap league.

The lightning that hit an outside flagpole, water pipes, clubhouse and skeet field caused extensive fire damage and total loss of all electrical, gas and water supplies, according to the monthly newsletter to members.

"Had it not been for Cliff Briggs, who luckily was passing by," the newsletter states, "the entire building would have been lost. The building will have to be completely rewired and a new floor installed, along with major foundation repairs on the new section of the building.

"The real bad news is that our insurance will not begin to cover our expected expenses," the letter concludes, and that is why help is being sought through support of the activities outlined.

Ted Giddings

Our Berkshires

The membership drive is on for the renewal of lapsed memberships and the addition of new ones. The annual fee is \$25 per individual, \$30 per family and \$2 for juniors. Checks for membership may be mailed to Lee Sportsmen's Club, P.O. Box 175, Lee, 01238.

The dinner dance will be Saturday, March 23 at Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club. Joe's Diner will cater a steamship round, and "Bits and Pieces" will provide music and entertainment. The price is \$20 per person. For reservations and additional information, call Mike Stedman at 243-9864, Ron Smith at 243-9813, Phil Hiser at 243-2877 or Mike Portieri at 243-4936.

Raffle tickets are being sold (\$5 each) on a Remington 11-87 premier shotgun or

\$400 cash for first prize; Marlin Model 60 .22-caliber rifle with 500 rounds of ammunition, second, and \$50 cash, third. The drawing will take place at the dinner dance.

Regarding donations, the newsletter states that "our financial crisis has already been helped by many people and organizations who have generously donated labor, materials, power equipment, facilities, raffle items and much more for which we are truly grateful.

"But the real cost of rebuilding lies ahead in the spring when construction starts. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. ... Together we can and will keep this club afloat."

Skeet and trap facilities, disabled by the lightning strike, have been restored. League competition has started with 400 targets that may be shot any time until April 1. Regular range fees per round apply, plus a one-time \$15 league fee. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place in all classes, AA through E. More information is available from Phil Hiser or Mike Portieri.

Members are urged by club officials to attend the organization's meetings at 7

p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. "We welcome your input," the officials said. Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club has opened its quarters for the meetings pending restoration of the Lee building.

The Berkshire County League of Sportsmen at its meeting Jan. 3 voted a donation of \$100 to the Lee building fund. The league also is helping with the club's raffle. Lenox Sportsmen's Club has donated \$100, and a similar amount was voted by Alford Brook Club directors at their meeting last Tuesday night.

So the ball is rolling and the outlook for the future of the Lee club is good if all who can participate in the fund-raisers do — and soon.

Century Cable TV Initiates New Scholarship Program

LEE — Philip Hopkins, manager of Century Berkshire Cable TV, has announced the initiation of the company's "Century Cares Community Scholarship Program."

Through the company's new program, seniors attending Lenox Memorial, Lee and Monument Mountain Regional High Schools will be able to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship toward the 1991-92 school year. As a part of a national competition, Century Communications, the parent company, is offering fifty \$1,000 scholarships to students in communities where Century provides cable television service.

"We're thrilled to be involved in such an important aspect of our community, and hope that many students take advantage of the program and apply," Mr. Hopkins added. Students interested in applying for the scholarship should contact their guidance counselor at their school.

In addition to the scholarship program, Century Berkshire Cable is also a new member of "Cable in the Classroom," which provides flexible, no-cost copyright use of various cable TV programming networks.

Yellow Ribbons Available To Remember Those In Service

LEE — The Lee Chamber of Commerce, as a sign of support for service men and women stationed in Saudi Arabia, is making strands of yellow ribbon available to the general public at no cost. The ribbon has come to symbolize the longing for a loved one who is bound by some form of incarceration. The ribbons could be tied on cars, doorknobs or trees, said chamber president Bruce M. Kaiden.

Thomas N. Kirk Joins Lee Bank

LEE — Lee Bank recently announced that Thomas N. Kirk joined the bank as operations manager on Jan. 7. His duties include directing and supervising all of the operations activities of the bank.

Mr. Kirk previously worked for Pittsfield National Bank as a loan officer, and spent 12 years with Bank of Boston in Pittsfield. His most recent position was as district manager for ComFed Savings in Pittsfield.

A graduate of the University of Bridgeport and the School of Banking at Williams College, Mr. Kirk resides in Dalton with his wife, the former Pamela Kincaid, and three children.

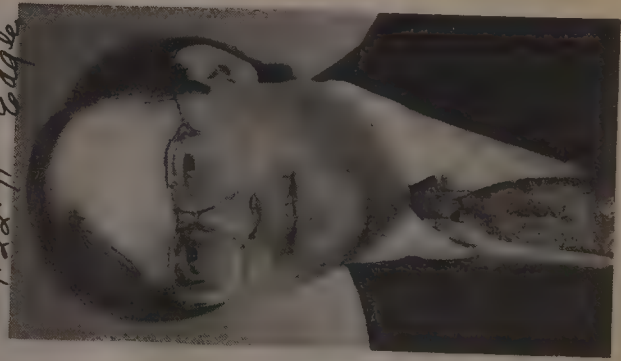
Kirk joins Lee Bank

LEE — Thomas N. Kirk, former district manager for ComFed Bank, has joined Lee Bank as operations manager, David J. Bruce, president, has announced. Bruce said Kirk's duties include directing and supervising all operations activities.

Spanning 17 years, Kirk's banking background includes management, operations, sales and business development.

He joined ComFed after it purchased the Bank of Boston's county deposits two years ago. He had been associated with Bank of Boston for 12 years as cashier and secretary of the corporation, operations officer, branch administrator and security officer. Prior to that he was a consumer loan officer for the former Pittsfield National Bank.

A graduate of the University of Bridgeport and the School of Banking at Williams College, Kirk and his wife, the former Pamela Kincaid, and their three children live at 59 Jarvis St., Dalton.



Thomas N. Kirk

Leslie Noyes

11/17/91

Carrner

Carrner

Fire marshal agrees to delay hearing on propane license

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff 1.16.91

LEE — The state fire marshal will conduct a hearing in Lee Thursday, Jan. 31, on appeals by residents against the granting of a propane-storage license by the Selectmen to Lee Oil Co. six weeks ago.

The hearing will be held in the Senior Center on Railroad Street at 7 p.m. It originally had been scheduled for tomorrow, but was postponed at the request of Leonard H. Cohen, the attorney representing Lee Oil. Cohen's wife is hospitalized in Albany, N.Y., according to a letter from his secretary to Fire Marshal Joseph A. O'Keefe.

O'Keefe said earlier that the session will actually cover two separate appeals that he has consolidated into one case. One is a group appeal filed by W. Garfield Canon of 196 Main St. and nine others who live in the neighborhood of the Lee Oil Co. headquarters at 19-21 Ferncliff Ave.

The other was filed for a separate abutter, William Welch, by a Lee attorney, Jessie Doyle Deely.

Each appeal has the same objective; namely, the prohibition of storage of flammable fuel at the Lee Oil site on Ferncliff Avenue.

Permit from chief

Last week, the Selectmen granted a license to the company to store propane and park a propane truck at a storage terminal it owns on outer Maple Street. But that license won't be implemented until the town fire chief, Ronald Driscoll, issues a permit spelling out any safety measures he may want the oil company to undertake first.

And Driscoll last week said he was against allowing the truck to be parked because residents along Maple Street are against it.

The appeals against the Ferncliff Avenue storage came after the Selectmen on Dec. 3 granted the company a license allowing for the presence of a 100-gallon propane filling station, the storage of up to six 100-pound tanks of propane commonly used by contractors, a 150-gallon tank of kerosene and the parking of the propane truck.

Despite the license, fuel storage has been halted at the Ferncliff Avenue address by virtue of an administrative order from O'Keefe. The order holds the license in abeyance until he issues a finding on the appeals.

But in a letter to Driscoll on Oct. 22, O'Keefe put himself on record against the granting of a license for propane storage at the

site. It is a "populated and congested area," he wrote, "and the location of a propane facility [there] would constitute a fire and explosion hazard."

Lee Oil Co. has been on Ferncliff Avenue for 14 years. It wasn't until after a propane leak from a company truck on Sept. 11 that Driscoll found the company didn't have a license to store propane there.

William F. Miller, owner of the company, said he has emptied the propane filling station and removed the propane tanks and truck, as O'Keefe's order requires. In fact, he is parking the truck in Housatonic under a temporary arrangement with Home Gas Corp.

Furthermore, he said, he withdrew "a long time ago" the request to park the propane truck on Ferncliff Avenue. It is a new, automated tanker, he said, and not the one that leaked Sept. 11.

Despite a petition signed by some 80 residents on Sept. 17 that contained phrases like "dangerous, highly explosive" and "a most undesirable and dangerous business," Miller said propane is not as dangerous as many people believe. If it were as dangerous as some make it out to be, he said, he wouldn't be driving a propane truck.

The 100-gallon filling-station tank that is at issue, he said, is no larger than the standard tank at a house that uses propane for hot water and cooking.

Fire Marshal O'Keefe said he normally conducts appeal hearings in Boston. The one here Jan. 31 will be the first in his 14 years as fire marshal that he has slated in Berkshire County, he said.

Cellular-phone tower being proposed in Lee

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff 1.17.91

LEE — Suburban residents who remember the 1989 conflict over the near construction of massive cellular-telephone towers in this town are worried that a new tower battle is looming.

Berkshire Cellular Inc., which is the name of a cellular-telephone company formed by the Richmond Telephone Co. and Nynex Mobile Communications Inc. of Albany, N.Y., is proposing to erect a tower on land off Stockbridge Road.

Michael Cotter, regional director for Nynex Mobile, said his company wants to avoid the sort of conflict that erupted in 1989 and is taking pains to acquaint residents and town officials with its plans ahead of time.

To this end, he and other rep-

resentatives of his company conducted an informational meeting last night at the Black Swan Inn for residents, who live within sight of the proposed tower and abutters of the parcel on Stockbridge Road where the tower would rise. About 30 attended.

Sandra Wesolowski of George Street, whose house is in view of the new planned tower, said that when she received notice of last night's meeting, she remembered the fight over the Metro Mobile tower, which "would have been right in our back yard."

Neighbors along the street, who are afraid that a tower will be a safety hazard as well as a visual drawback to their area, "were totally shocked when we learned of this new [tower]," Wesolowski said.

TOWER, continued on B4

Cellular-phone tower being proposed in Lee

TOWER, from B1

"We said, 'Here we go again,' when we thought we were over it."

The tower would be erected on land owned by Wilson A. Wright that is bounded by Stockbridge Road and the Massachusetts Turnpike on the turnpike's south side. As Wright explained it yesterday, the company has told him it would build a small equipment-storage building and erect the tower next to it. He said he was told the tower would be about 150 feet in height.

Cotter said he could not say precisely how high it will be but observed that height limits set by the town or state agencies could govern this dimension.

From what he said in a telephone conversation yesterday, the height is important for transmission of the signals that operate cellular phones. A tower not high enough, for example, might not receive or transmit signals over a sufficiently great distance and would be useless as a result.

Cotter said the company still has to clear any zoning or related hurdles that may apply to the project but plans to begin that

process in the next few weeks.

But first, "we just want to make sure voters' concerns are addressed," he said.

The anxiety of residents near the site of the proposed tower can be explained by the controversy that arose a year and a half ago when another communications company, a private one called Metro Mobile Communications Inc., struck a deal with the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to erect cellular towers along the turnpike and began building four of them along the turnpike's stretch across Hampden and Berkshire counties.

One was in Lee — just across the turnpike from where the Nynex Mobile tower would rise — and residents within sight of it first were aware of its existence when they saw it above the trees. It was only about one-third of its planned height at that time.

Reacting angrily, they barraged town officials and legislators with complaints and calls for action. They eventually succeeded, first, in getting the turnpike authority to halt construction and, next, to order the towers — which were destined to be from 200 to 250 feet high — torn down.

LEE

Courier 1.24.91

Century Collected Toys For Needy

LEE — Phil Hopkins, manager of Century Berkshire Cable TV, has announced that more than \$1,480 worth of toys were collected for needy children in the area during a holiday campaign. The cable company provided more than \$200 worth of toys to start the drive and made a free connection for new subscribers and connected any of their six premium services free for existing subscribers who contributed a new \$10 toy to the drive. Subscribers donated 41 toys and \$870 which was used to buy new toys at the Ames Department Stores in Lenox and Great Barrington.

This year, Century worked with the Lee Police Association, Community Services and the Lenox Elementary School to distribute the toys to families in need.

"This was an uplifting campaign," said Mr. Hopkins. "The community really showed its generosity at this time of the year, and we are grateful to all for helping us make this holiday season merry for so many children and their parents."

Consulting firm takes initial step toward suing Lee

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Sheridan & Associates, the Holyoke management consulting firm hired as negotiator for the town last summer but dropped when the town meeting refused to appropriate funds, has taken the first step toward filing a breach-of-contract suit.

In certified mail to the Selectmen, the company's law firm of Sheridan & Sheridan has requested minutes of Selectmen's meetings going back to early last fall and minutes of the special town meeting Dec. 20 at which the funds were turned down.

"Obviously, they are seriously considering a lawsuit," said Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont last night after reading the letter.

Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, who received a copy, has advised the board to notify Sheridan there will be a fee for making photocopies of the documents requested.

The letter marks the latest in a bizarre series of events that began in the summer when Sheridan & Associates was hired to negotiate with unionized public works employees, but without money having specifically been appropriated for the task.

The town's Department of Public Works Board and the Selectmen have been at odds over the matter for several weeks, and there remains some disagreement over who approved what, but it all came to a head Dec. 20. That was the day town meeting representatives at a special meeting rejected an appropriation of \$9,000 to pay for Sheridan's services.

The \$9,000 was the amount Sheridan had set forth in a letter to the DPW Board last summer as the fee it would charge.

Town Counsel Scully has said that he would not be surprised by a lawsuit but that, without a specific allocation of funds, the town was not obligated to pay Sheridan. He said he believes Sheridan will not be successful if it

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

The town meeting did approve \$4,500 to pay for work Sheridan had already done. So far, the company has submitted bills totaling only \$750, which have been paid.

Since Dec. 20, the Selectmen have agreed that they, along with Scully, now constitute the negotiating team for the town. Dupont observed last night that their first negotiating session with Local 404 of the Teamsters, which represents the six Highway Department workers, will be tomorrow night.

It will probably be a closed meeting, he said.

Other business

In other action, the Selectmen:

► Voted to establish a single property-tax classification for the town, instead of setting separate classifications for residential and commercial real estate. The step, which continues present practice, was recommended by the Board of Assessors.

The vote was 2-0 because only Dupont and Selectman William D. Bean were present. The third selectman, Diane P. Roosa, was absent because of illness.

► Confirmed meeting dates with the Finance and Capital Outlay committees for Monday at 7:30 to go over preliminary departmental budgets, and with the Assessors on Feb. 4 to discuss renumbering town streets.

Lee tax rate expected to be set within week

LEE — Assessors Chairman Edward M. Briggs said last night that a tax rate for the town would probably be set in the next week.

In the absence of a tax rate, normally set sometime in the fall, Tax Collector Janice Smith has asked taxpayers to make voluntary payments until one is established.

Lee, as do most municipalities, normally sends out bills for payment on Nov. 1 and May 1 in each fiscal year.

Railroad revival

A Housatonic Railroad engine, with two freight cars in tow from Mead Corp., passes Sullivan Station restaurant in Lee on inaugural run to Pittsfield. Tracks between Pittsfield and Connecticut border were bought Thursday from Guilford Transportation Industries.

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Eagle

Proposed school budget in Lee is up 3.35%

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — School Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski has proposed a budget for the coming year that is \$140,000, or 3.35 percent, higher than this year's school appropriation of \$4.17 million.

Although the Selectmen have called for level-funded budgets from the various departments, Zukowski said, in effect, that the increase in his budget is dictated by contract and by law.

The entire sum is necessary to fund step raises for teachers and to increase special-education outlays, he said, adding that most of it is for the latter. "We have picked up a couple of students who need residential placement," he said.

All other operating costs have been held at current levels, said Zukowski. "I have not included

raises for anyone except the step increases for teachers not at maximum," he said.

He was not specific about the special-education increase other than that it's to cover costs of residential schools. It is no secret that the cost of a residential school for a single special-needs pupil can range from \$24,000 to \$76,000 a year. The local school system must pick up a substantial share of such a cost, usually half.

Step increases are the increments from one step in the school system's 12-step teacher salary scale to another. Under the present contract, increments average about \$575 except at the final two steps, when one of them can be as much as \$4,000.

Talking about the budget yesterday, Zukowski stressed that its bottom line is likely to change before the School Committee puts its final stamp of approval on it.

In fact, the committee will conduct a budget workshop meeting at 7:30 tonight at Lee Central School.

Effect of teacher pact

Zukowski said that although most components of the school budget have been level-funded, there remains a major unknown: The effect on the budget of a new teacher contract.

The present one, which expires Aug. 31, is up for renewal and is being renegotiated by the Lee

Education Association, representing the teachers, and by Sheridan & Associates of Holyoke, hired by the School Department to handle collective-bargaining chores for the school board. (It is the same firm that was hired by the town's Department of Public Works Board last summer to bargain with Highway Department employees but lost the job when a special town meeting rejected appropriating funds for Sheridan's fee. The firm is now considering a lawsuit against the town to obtain the sum.)

Lee to bill for use of police officers

LEE — At the suggestion of acting Town Treasurer Patricia Carlino, the Selectmen have approved a measure that could bring the town an additional \$5,000 to \$5,200 a year.

In these economically depressed times, said Carlino, "every bit helps."

The measure is the addition of an administrative charge to the costs of what is called outside detail work. The term refers to service provided by police officers for contractors, public utilities and the like during construction or installation work on public ways.

Laws require the presence of police officers at such sites for traffic direction and related safety service. Pay for the officers comes from the contractors or installers, which are billed by the municipalities.

Under state law, said Carlino, a billing town is permitted to tack on a 10 percent charge to cover the costs of "administration," in effect the billing, accounting and work of a payroll clerk.

She said payments for police at such work sites come to between \$50,000 and \$60,000 a year in Lee. Most, if not all, surrounding towns make use of this fee provision, she said.

Eagle 1/24/91

Deely, former Lee selectman, to try again for seat on board

LEE — Martin H. Deely, who was on the Board of Selectmen for two terms in the 1970s but did not seek re-election to a third, is ready to try a comeback.

In reply to a question yesterday, he said he expects to submit his name to the Democratic Town Committee for inclusion on the Democratic ticket at the party caucus April 4.

"I don't know if it's a good idea, but I think it's time for an old-timer to try again," he said. The annual town election will be May 13.

The selectman's seat that will be open for election at that time is now occupied by William D. Bean, who is completing his second three-year term. Bean said yesterday he will announce on Feb. 25 whether he will run again.

Several officials in town, elected and appointed, say that Bean some time ago said he would not run for re-election, but Bean said his intention is to wait until the date he has chosen to say what he'll do, one way or the other.

Deely, a Lee native who is president of the Lee Lime Corp., served his two terms as a selectman from 1971 to 1977. He was a member of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association and, near the end of his last term, was its president. Earlier, he had served on the Planning Board and Board of Health.

His current town involvement is as a town meeting representative from District 6.

When he chose not to seek re-election as a selectman in 1977, he said he could not foresee running again. At the same time, he admitted that "never is forever and who can say about that?"

There is clear interest among town office holders in who might

fill Bean's chair, even if it is Bean himself. Like all towns, Lee is working its way hesitatingly through the current economic recession and loss of revenue, particularly of state aid. But the town also is the recent recipient of a legislative act creating a selectmen-administrator form of government.

Acceptance of this act by voters in May would open the door to appointment of the town's first full-time, professional administrator, something both Deely and Bean endorse.

The Board of Selectmen is empowered to do the appointing.

Bean, retired from the former Clark-Aiken-Matik Co., was first elected to the board in 1985. He has served as Selectmen chairman during his two terms, has served on his share of boards and committees and at present is chairman of the County Advisory Board and a member of the Routes 7 and 20 Corridor of Critical Concern Committee.

He is an at-large town meeting representative.

Eagle 1/26/91

In the Berkshires

1/24/91 Eagle

Pipe repair costs less than expected

LEE — The cost of repairing a ruptured hot-water line at Lee High School in December will be substantially less than the school superintendent estimated, it was learned yesterday.

"This may make me out to be some kind of dope," said the superintendent, Henry T. Zukowski, "but I'd rather have it go this way than the other way."

Despite the self-deprecating remark, he was clearly elated by the news. Practically any expenditure these days is given a hard look by town officials.

Although all the bills haven't been toted up, the cost will probably be less than \$25,000, Zukowski said. When the pipe broke on Dec. 15 and forced the administration to close the school for two days, he had put the cost estimate at \$40,000.

His guess was based on ballpark estimates given him by contractors who were called out over a frigid weekend to excavate a 50-foot trench outside the school's rear wall, jackhammer holes through the foundation in two places and concrete floor in one, replace steel pipes 3 inches in diameter and construct an underground concrete vault to hold the new pipes so they would not be corroded by soil acids.

Workers attributed the rupture, which shut off heat in the building, to corrosion.

As he had said in December, Zukowski repeated that some surplus money in the School Department's capital projects account can be tapped eventually to cover the repair cost. The surplus has been estimated at \$37,000.

Police probing two more breaks into Lee houses

LEE — Police are investigating two house breaks that occurred sometime Saturday, bringing to seven the number of such robberies since the middle of December.

Officer William Bartini said the latest thefts, from houses on Pleasant and Lois streets, were reported after 9 p.m. Saturday. The breaks are still being investigated and lists of stolen items are not completed. However, it is known that television sets, video cassette recorders, "some jewelry and some money" were taken from the homes, Bartini said.

Police are asking that anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the neighborhood of the two homes contact the department.

The other breaks occurred at scattered locations in town from mid-December to early January. All have taken place at houses occupied year-round but whose occupants were away when the breaks occurred. Television sets, videotape recorders and a personal computer were taken.

Owed over \$2 million, bank attaches property

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

1/26/91

LEE — Five properties in this town and Tyringham owned by developer P. James Scarafoni of Marble Street have been attached by First Agricultural Bank of Pittsfield for \$2.5 million in an effort by the bank to recover almost that much in unpaid loans.

The attachments were approved by Judge Charles R. Alberti in Berkshire County Superior Court Thursday after a brief hearing in which a representative of the bank set forth copies of seven promissory notes signed by Scarafoni between Oct. 13, 1987, and Dec. 2, 1988.

The notes, which represent borrowings of \$2.37 million, are now in default, according to the bank. It maintains that although a few payments were made, Scarafoni now owes \$2.42 million in principal and interest, and is adding to his debt at the rate of more than \$735 in interest each day.

According to the court documents, the attached properties consist of a holding on Goose Pond Road in Tyringham and properties on School Street in Lee as

well as at 236 and 226 Main St. and 19 Franklin St., also in Lee.

There are no descriptions of the properties other than their locations. However, the address at 19 Franklin St., for example, is a cluster of 15 apartments erected by Scarafoni several years ago, and the 236 Main St. address is the location of Lee Liquors, a business owned by Scarafoni.

Scarafoni also owns other properties besides these, notably carwashes in Pittsfield and Great Barrington, but these were not included in the attachments approved Thursday.

It was not clear yesterday whether Scarafoni is merely a victim of the region's economic depression or of something else. Telephone messages to his store in Lee were not returned.

In the Thursday hearing, Alberti initially asked how First Agricultural Bank could loan so much money with what appeared to be no collateral security. But a representative of the bank said there was security for some of the notes and the bank was "picking up the equity" in the properties at issue.

Luxurious ice fishing

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Tony Scapin's gone fishin', but don't expect to find him snoozing under a big tree or, in this season, staring into a tipup hole.

Scapin has a certain nose for comfort. Last year he was injured when a tree fell on his leg, producing pain and a few blood clots. To ease that condition, doctors gave him some medicine that thinned his blood.

"I was out here without this," Scapin said, "and boy. It got tough."

"This" is his new fishing hut, though "hut" does not quite tell the story. What Scapin, a builder, has built is the antithesis of ice fishing as it is usually practiced: cold, windy, demanding. His hut is a high-tech, heated, Lexan-sided, ski-equipped shelter that draws as many compliments as it does visitors.

Scapin (pronounced Sca-PEEN) hauls the hut to Goose Pond on a trailer, and tows it on its skis into place with a four-wheel-drive all-terrain vehicle. He and his family then set their 10 tip-ups and settle back to enjoy the day. Enjoy is not an empty word to Scapin.

Sausage on menu

Apart from fishing gear, neatly stowed in a yellow plastic sledge, Scapin brings a stove and table, bread and Italian sausage. The sausages come from Frigo's in Springfield, an Italian victualer, and they have made a portion of Scapin's reputation on the ice.

As the smell of the sausage wafts weakly but invitingly through the 10-degree air, a flag goes up and his children, Michael "Mickey," 10, and Loretta, 8, yell and go skittering across the ice to see what they've caught. His wife, Maryellen, and her two children, Michael, 8, and Melissa, 9, are elsewhere today, though they usually are part of the expedition.

It is a nice pickerel, more than a foot long, deep in the body. Scapin drills a hole in the ice that fills with water and acts as a storage tank for the fish. If they catch enough they will eat them. If not, they will give the fish to someone else.

Scapin goes back to tend the sausage as the visitor baits the hook and sends another minnow into the black



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Contractor Tony Scapin, foreground, does his ice fishing in comfort now, watching his tipups from the comfort of the heated Lexan hut he built.

water to meet its maker, or at least tempt another pickerel. Then the group repairs to the hut for lunch.

"We stood outside and froze," Scapin laughs when asked about life before the hut.

It is 3½ feet wide, 7 feet long and 6 feet tall. There is a folding table in the middle and a padded bench at

each end. An indoor/outdoor thermometer is mounted on one wall to remind the Scapins of their good fortune, and there is a small digital clock to show them how much time remains in this pleasure dome, not of ice, but on ice.

FISHING, continued on B3

Lee family ice fishes in comfort

FISHING, from B1

"We have a stereo system," he jokes, indicating a small Sanyo portable radio. "Musica," they call it in Mexico. We've got musica."

Nearly everyone suggests that all he needs is a TV, but that is exactly what he has come to Goose Pond to escape. Mickey and Loretta say they like it when the flags go up.

"Who's this, now?" Scapin says as a pickup truck pulls up.

Out climbs Mark Michaud, delivering handbills for his B and M Bait Shop in Lee. State regulations prevent him from conducting a delivery business on the ice, but not from spreading the word.

He also has kind words for Scapin's hut. As he leaves, Scapin asks him to open a vent he has

mounted in the door to control moisture.

The Scapins try to get out fishing every weekend for good, clean fun, as he puts it. Because of the strange warm weather this winter, this is only the third time he has been able to use the hut. But now there are 13 inches of ice, plenty for safety.

Another tipup shows and it is a second pickerel, nearly identical to the first. Two men, fishing near the shore, come over as Scapin rebaits.

"You fishing on the bottom or

the top?" he asks them.

"Top," one answers. "But we must not be doing it right."

"Let her touch our tipup," the other says, meaning Loretta.

"I saw the flag," Loretta says, explaining away any magic.

The men make a quick examination of the hut and amble away, impressed.

"The good life," the first man says.

"Yeah, not bad," Scapin admits.

He and the kids go in and he fires up the 12,000 BTU heater and waits for the next flag.

Breast cancer patients training to help others

1/27/91

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Her story, told matter-of-factly with very little drama, is a harrowing tale.

"I come from a long line of dead women," she said. "I never knew why they weren't here; what exactly happened to them until the day I was told I had breast cancer."

Suddenly, the many deaths were no longer a mystery. Though badly frightened, the young woman resolved that she would not be a part of the devastating list of family statistics.

"I had to go all over the country to get the information I needed to make the right decisions," she said, describing a journey that began with her diagnosis seven years ago. "I had to do it."

In training

But a handful of local women, all breast cancer patients, believe there ought to be a better way. To that end, they have joined Y-Me of the Berkshires, a new breast cancer support group that

provides information, counseling, programs and self-help meetings for breast cancer patients and their families.

Founded by Sallie Kate Kish of the Black Swan Inn, the local chapter hosted a training session for its core members this weekend, led by Margie Bernard, a hot line trainer from the group's national headquarters in the Chicago area.

Once trained, the volunteers will provide breast cancer patients with timely telephone support to help them through all phases of treatment for both cancerous and non-cancerous breast conditions. According to Bernard, the unique relationship between the peer counselor and the patient is one of the cornerstones of the Y-Me organization.

"She can truly say, 'I have been where you are now,'" Bernard said.

While most cancer support groups offer assistance after a diagnosis has been made, Y-Me is available for help from the moment a woman suspects she may have some form of breast disease.

CANCER, continued on B5

Delegates Refuse To Pay Consultant

LEE -- Representatives at a special town meeting a week ago refused to authorize payment of \$6,000 to a labor relations consulting firm that is negotiating a contract with the town's six-member highway department. An initial \$4,500 for the consultants is being paid, according to a report in *The Berkshire Eagle*. The Selectmen will now have to continue negotiations on their own.

Courier 1/31/91

Breast cancer support group trains to help others

■ CANCER, from B1

"Fear can start at once, even when you still don't know," Kish said. "We believe support and information should start at once," she said, adding that the best form of empathy comes from someone who once shared the same experience and is now trained to help another face the ordeal.

But to most of the volunteers attending the session at the Black Swan Inn yesterday, the organization's most compelling job is to offer hope to women who may now be living in loneliness and fear. All of the volunteers know first-hand the terror of a cancer diagnosis and the fear of possible death from the disease.

Little support

Indeed, most said they recovered with little or no support outside of their families, and with a frustrating lack of information about the disease. Healthy once again, they are determined that other women will receive the information and support they were denied.

For some, not enough information about the medical options available led to decisions they now question.

Without knowing all the alternatives, Sallie Kish agreed to have her cancerous breast removed last spring. Much later, and after receiving more information, she now believes that the mastectomy was not her only alternative.

Indeed, Kish said she may have been willing to take risks with her treatment if she had known exactly what was involved. But without that knowledge, "I ran scared," she said.

Thus, complicating the intense fear that comes with a cancer

diagnosis is now anger from not knowing exactly what all her options were when decisions had to be made.

"The need for information is immediate," Kish said. "The first reaction of someone who is told she has cancer is, 'Oh, God, I'm going to die.' Fear can paralyze us."

But information empowers and challenges the cancer patient, she continued. "It gives you your control back."

The Y-Me volunteers will not compete or interfere with a patient's relationship with her doctor. Instead, their role is to complement the medical profession, primarily by listening and helping the patient take responsibility for her health care.

"We are not here to tell a woman how to react," Kish said. "We want her to be informed so that she can do what's right for her."

Sometimes, the patient may decide a course of action that will go against what the volunteer might have chosen for herself. The proper training will allow the volunteer to respect and support a patient's right to choose, Bernard said.

"There is never a time when there is nothing you can do," the trainer said.

In addition to informing the community about the group's existence, Kish hopes that members of the medical profession will also become acquainted with Y-Me, and refer their breast cancer patients to its hot line.

Most of the women agreed that doctors still have a lot to learn from their patients and believe that members of the medical profession would benefit from training on the subject themselves.

Founded in 1978, Y-Me has been established for years in many parts of the country. Kish

said she decided to become involved with the organization because of its credibility with doctors who are nationally known for their work in the field of breast cancer. In time, she hopes that the local group will attract the same respect from the local medical establishment that it has achieved elsewhere.

1/27/91

Lee is gearing up to adopt its first capital-outlay plan

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

1/31/91

LEE — The Capital Outlay Committee is going to go to the annual town meeting in May with what several officials say is the first long-range expenditure plan in town annals.

It will look ahead five to seven years and set forth in general terms what the town will need in the way of major building renovations, heavy-equipment purchases, water and sewer installations, road reconstruction, land-fill expansion and more.

It will include a report on existing bonded indebtedness and list the years when various bonds will be retired, thereby permitting new borrowing that will not measurably increase the tax rate.

It will also include a review of capital expenditures over the previous five years, documenting ongoing needs.

It will show, in the words of John E. De Varennes, committee chairman, "that if you want things in town to be the way they

clear explanations of expenditures and are persuaded they are not frivolous, in most cases they will back them.

If some major capital outlay would push the town's tax levy above the ceiling set by tax-limiting Proposition 2½, then it can be presented to the town meeting as an item to be exempted from the limit, he said.

This was done with the \$934,500 bond issue authorized in November 1988 for the renovation of Memorial Town Hall.

De Varennes said his estimate of annual capital outlays in the \$350,000 to \$400,000 range might be skewed now and then by one-time projects like the Town Hall renovation, but the average will remain fairly constant.

Five-year blueprint

Refusal to lay out funds for such work, he suggested, would constitute an ill-conceived approach that would result in higher costs in later years.

After the passage of Proposition 2½ in 1980, he observed, a lot of

De Varennes said yesterday he expects his committee to submit to the annual town meeting May 9 a long-range plan for adoption as a blueprint for the next five years or so. It will be clear that dollar sums set forth for each of the years will be estimates and not etched in stone, he said.

Meanwhile, he continued, he will seek in the next couple of weeks to fill the handful of vacancies on the committee and then start the formal planning. Included will be meetings with the various committees, departments and boards that have capital projects each wants to fund.

De Varennes, a former selectman, was named to the Capital Outlay Committee a little more than two years ago. The committee had been moribund after the passage of Proposition 2½, he said, but was revived in 1988 after consultant David A. Booth of Amherst said the town needed a long-range plan.

To find priorities

At the time, estimates of major

p.29

Lee tax rate of \$12 is approved by state

LEE — The state Bureau of Local Assessment yesterday approved a new tax rate for Lee of \$12 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The rate is up exactly \$1 from the old rate of \$11.

The approval, which comes some four months after the town would normally expect a new rate to be set, means that for a house assessed at, say, \$100,000, the owners can expect a tax bill this year that is \$100 higher than the one they paid a year ago. The increase would be from \$1,100 to \$1,200.

Elizabeth Larrivee, assistant to the Board of Assessors, said Tax Collector Janice G. Smith will mail out tax bills within the next week. Because of the lateness, the envelopes will contain both the fall and spring bills, not just fall bills, she said.

Normally, property-tax bills are divided in two, the first half to be paid Nov. 1 and the second half May 1. Now the fall bills will be payable 30 days from the date of mailing.

Assessors Chairman Edward M. Briggs said the increase of \$1 was generally anticipated and is necessary to raise local revenue amounting to \$4,724,041. The levy is nearly 60 percent of the \$8 million town budget for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Other revenue comes from fees, excise taxes, state financial aid and similar sources.

A year ago, property-tax revenue amounted to \$4,336,306.

Revaluation was delayed

The tax rate and bills are late because revaluation of town real estate was delayed, said Briggs.

The Assessors in 1989 hired John Loring, a member of the Assessors, to conduct the revaluation, which is required by law every three years. But the arrangement was declared a conflict of interest, and Loring stepped down from the board in order to continue, said Briggs.

Even so, he added, the state set revaluation demands that made it difficult for Loring to complete the job, and he eventually quit. The town hired Dolan & Rossi of Springfield to finish the work — principally the revaluation of commercial property, Loring having done the residential.

Time was also consumed, Briggs said, by review of some 200 requests for abatement.

Despite all this, he said he believes the cost, about \$17,500, was less than if the town had hired a professional appraisal company at the outset. He guessed the bill in that case would have been in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

The Bureau of Local Assessment, in approving the rate and the attendant revaluation, has called on the town to update one-third of its property valuations each year instead of waiting and doing the whole job every three years, Briggs said. As a result, the Assessors have retained Dolan & Rossi to begin the process this year.

Eagle 1.30.91

Lee Selectmen appoint a temporary assessor

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen have named Edward F. Murray, a former selectman and Planning Board member, to be the town's third assessor for the next 3½ months until the annual town election May 13.

For that time, he will fill the chair formerly held by John J. Nagle, who resigned from all his town posts on Jan. 8 because of ill health. Nagle was also the town clerk and treasurer.

Plans to run

In answer to a question at Monday night's meeting, Murray, who is a retired New England Telephone Co. employee, said he expects to make a formal run for the office at the town election to fill the rest of Nagle's term, which does not expire until 1992.

Murray served on the Board of Selectmen for nine years, from 1967 to 1976. Before that, he had been a Planning Board member for two years. He lives at 137 Summer St.

Edward M. Briggs, the Board of Assessors chairman, submitted Murray's name to the Selectmen with the remark that he and the other board member, William Derrick, had not advertised for candidates but had simply asked likely persons if they would be interested.

He said his reasoning was that

the election was close and that the appointment was for less than four months. "But if you feel we should go out and advertise the post, we can do that," he said.

The Selectmen did not.

Other business

In another action, the Selectmen voted to advertise for a full-time interdepartmental secretary to work at Memorial Town Hall, providing an answer to a week-old request for help from Patricia Carlino, the assistant town clerk and acting town treasurer.

Until now, Carol Marino, who has been part-time secretary for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, has assisted Carlino on days when she does not work for the other two. Carlino last week asked the Selectmen if Marino could work more hours because work is piling up.

Carlino used to be a full-time assistant clerk and treasurer to Nagle, but since his retirement, she has been working alone except for the two days a week when Marino has been available.

Marino told the Selectmen Monday night that she expected to leave her post because it was a part-time one and she needed full-time work.

She will be able to apply for the full-time post the Selectmen created, but she had left the Selectmen's office by the time they voted and wasn't present to say whether she would.

Castronova, angry about 'slander,' tells his side in Sheridan dispute

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Joseph Castronova, chairman of Lee's Board of Public Works, has denounced "slandering and one-sided stories ... and slanderous comments" that he says have been printed about him or have been uttered by various town officials and employees in the past year.

Reading from a prepared text at the board's regular meeting in the Airolodi Building Monday night, he cited in particular a remark by town meeting representative Edward M. Briggs that the board "is like a kangaroo court in there every Monday night." He also cited a column in The South Advocate, a weekly newspaper, by Deidre Consolati that included that remark and some others by Briggs.

Briggs had spoken during a special town meeting Dec. 20, Castronova observed, adding, "I personally feel the ... town meeting was a kangaroo court."

'Never attend meetings'

Castronova said he reacted "because Edward Briggs or Deidre Consolati never attend any BPW meetings and to make such a derogatory comment in public and to print it is unfair to the BPW and me."

Asked about all this, Consolati said she was "not positive a person has to go to every meeting [of the BPW] to see the dissension in the [public works] department."

Castronova and the BPW have been at the center of a dispute over the hiring of a management

consulting firm, Sheridan & Associates of Holyoke, last summer to negotiate a new contract with the town's unionized Highway Department employees. The dispute ended, or at least reached a resting point, at a special town meeting Dec. 20 when Briggs made his kangaroo-court remark. The town meeting turned down a request for \$9,000 to pay Sheridan, but did appropriate \$4,500 to cover Sheridan's costs to that point.

Sheridan now is obtaining documents that could be used as evidence in case it sues the town for breach of contract.

In his Monday statement, Castronova said the hiring of Sheridan was a sensible move dictated by "the uncompromising position [of] Teamster Local 404," which represents the five Highway Department workers; "weak" language in the existing contract with respect to the town and its management rights, and by the good return on investment.

In regard to the latter, Castronova said, "It became apparent to the BPW [that] the contracts from 1978 to 1990 negotiated by the Selectmen, Board of Public Works and reviewed by town counsel ... cost the town over \$200,000 per year [and that] \$4,500 was a good investment to get the 28 contract-language changes the BPW proposed to Local 404."

Castronova used \$4,500 as the contract-negotiating cost because, he said, the agreement with Sheridan, which was for \$9,000, included \$4,500 as the cost of negotiation and \$4,500 as the cost of

handling grievances and arbitration cases to date. The second \$4,500 also covered "any new grievances and arbitration cases arising from the new three-year contract," he said.

A new contract has not actually been concluded with the union. The old one expired last June 30, and it is the successor contract that is at issue. Since the town meeting rejected money to pay Sheridan, responsibility for negotiating for the town has fallen to the Selectmen.

Although Castronova says he is being painted as the villain of the piece, the approval to hire Sheridan, he stressed, came from the Selectmen. He asked members of the BPW Monday night if they had any comments on his statement, and two of them, Martin Barenski and Maurice Leahey, said the Selectmen indeed had authorized the hiring of Sheridan.

DuPont, Bean agree

And two of the selectmen, Chairman Joseph F. DuPont and William D. Bean, who were at a Selectmen's meeting two doors away, said yes, they had approved the hiring at a meeting last year. Both boards meet on Monday nights and the BPW last Aug. 6 had interrupted its own meeting to go next door and propose hiring Sheridan, Castronova said.

"We said fine. Go ahead. We thought it was a good idea," said DuPont. He added, though, that he is not sure what significance there is to this insofar as Castronova's statement is concerned.

The problem lay in paying for Sheridan. The BPW was prepared

Forty-Five Attend Chamber Party; Officers Elected

LEE — The Lee Chamber of Commerce held its annual holiday party recently at the Cork 'n' Hearth Restaurant. Forty-five people attended. Nominations for officers and directors for 1991 were presented and approved during

the primarily social gathering. *Courier*

Bruce Kaiden was elected president and Sandra LePrevost and Roger Pippin were elected to the two vice presidents' posts.

Also elected as officers

were: Mary K. Bradbury, chairperson of the board; Virginia Tolvo, secretary/treasurer; Jeanne Larkin, Recording Secretary.

Ten persons were also chosen for the Chamber's board of directors. They are: Mike Newkirk, Dani Holmes, Susan Burns, Chuck Petris, Michael McManmon, Norma Kelly, Libby Collins, George O'Neil, Paula Thoubboron.

Lee Oil target of second appeal

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee Oil Co., the target of one neighborhood appeal against its storing flammable fuels on Ferncliff Avenue, is now the target of a second appeal against parking a propane truck on outer Maple Street.

The company, headed by William F. Miller, is preparing for a state fire marshal's hearing tomorrow night at the Airolodi Building on the first appeal. Now, it's going to have to wait additional time to learn how the second one comes out.

Meanwhile, Miller can't park

the propane truck at either site, particularly at the latter one, for which his company received a license from the Selectmen Jan. 7.

What's lacking is a written permit from the fire chief, Ronald Driscoll, who has advised Miller, the Selectmen and the state fire marshal, Joseph A. O'Keefe, that he won't issue the truck a parking permit.

He says he finds that the truck would pose a fire and explosion hazard.

O'Keefe, as a result, has notified the company and various town officials that he will rule on the newest appeal sometime after tomorrow's hearing on the older one. He also said he would view the Maple Street storage terminal and surrounding area.

The new appeal was made by Shaun M. Smith, a Maple Street resident who was a spokesman for several residents of his neighborhood during the Jan. 7 hearing at which the Selectmen eventually issued the storage license. At the moment, Smith wants only to prohibit parking of the propane truck, not the storage of other products, like fuel oil.

Miller has maintained that the truck is automated and outfitted with safety mechanisms and that propane, despite what's said about it, is not as volatile or dangerous as many people believe.

Since December, he has parked the truck in Housatonic under an arrangement with the Home Gas Corp.

Fire marshal says Lee Oil has only gas storage license

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — State Fire Marshal Joseph A. O'Keefe introduced a new twist into the Ferncliff Avenue propane-storage license saga here Thursday. He said he believes the only valid storage license for the Lee Oil Co. property is for underground storage of gasoline.

Not propane. Not fuel oil. And he called on the attorney for Lee Oil Co., Leonard H. Cohen of Pittsfield, to produce evidence that the 1,000-gallon underground storage tank at that site has been registered with the Department of Public Safety as required under federal regulations.

O'Keefe said he could find no evidence that it is registered, and this is critical, he contended, because registration "is part of the license."

When Cohen protested that this was a new element in an exhaustively debated issue, O'Keefe gave him — and other interested parties — 10 days to file briefs.

Cohen argued that registration might not be required because the tank no longer holds gasoline for sale but holds fuel oil to heat the company building.

O'Keefe was in town to conduct a hearing on the appeal of a propane-storage license filed by nearly a dozen property owners around the Lee Oil property at 19-21 Ferncliff. It was the first time in the 14 years he has been fire marshal that he has conducted such a hearing in Berkshire County, he said. Hearings are normally held in Boston.

He said he would issue a ruling on or before March 1.

Hazard charged

The appellants maintain that propane constitutes a fire and explosion hazard and they want the storage of it on Ferncliff to stop.

O'Keefe told a reporter during a mid-hearing recess that he would also address in the next few days the appeal of a second propane-storage license granted to Lee Oil, this one for outer Maple Street. But whether he would schedule a hearing he could not say.

He is permitted by law to reject an appeal or refuse to consider it, he said. He added that there may be sufficient difference between the Ferncliff Avenue and Maple Street sites — the former is downtown, the latter in a rural section — to prompt O'Keefe to uphold the one but turn down the other.

Both licenses were issued in December by the Selectmen, who are also appellees in the case. They were petitioned for the li-

censes because in the wake of a propane leak on Ferncliff Avenue last September, town officials could find no storage license for either site.

Cohen said that although no licenses have been found, there are permits — which are different — on record. And a permit, according to law, can only be issued if a license exists, he said.

O'Keefe agreed but also said the presence of a permit doesn't necessarily mean a license was issued. Permits are issued by fire chiefs.

William F. Miller, owner of Lee Oil, said when his family moved the business to Ferncliff Avenue from Laurel Street in the early 1980s, the then fire chief, Ottavio Giarolo, gave verbal approval for the storage of propane.

"The chief didn't give permits, it was just word of mouth," Miller said. "I asked him, and he said if anybody asks, tell them to come see him."

Until the filing of the appeal, Lee Oil maintained a 100-gallon propane filling tank, stored kerosene and portable propane tanks and parked a propane tank truck at the Ferncliff site. It hasn't done so since O'Keefe received the appeal and said the license would be in abeyance until he issued a finding.

O'Keefe said he planned to inspect the Maple Street terminal yesterday since he was already in town.

The Maple Street appeal sets forth the same contention that the one from the Ferncliff Avenue neighborhood does — namely, that storage of propane constitutes a fire and explosion hazard.

One Ferncliff appellant, William H. Welch, actually lives in Northampton but owns a combination business and apartment building at 218 Main St. next door to Lee Oil. He contended that "even a small outdoor cooking tank, which can be ignited very easily, has the power to obliterate or pretty well wipe out a house within 50 to 60 feet of it."

He said he does not doubt that Miller provides a necessary and important service in town, "but I think it should be conducted in a rural area."

Miller, who testified at some length, restated his earlier contention that while propane is volatile, it is safe if properly handled. In 36 years of business, he said, his company has had no gas fires or explosions. The leak last September was out of a pinhole in the fuel line to the engine of a tank truck he owned at the time. Because the vaporizing gas generated a condensate cloud over the truck, it appeared worse than it was, he maintained.

The truck, which he has replaced with a new, more highly automated one, was driven by propane.

Press neglected test ban conference

To the Editor of THE EAGLE

From Jan. 7 to 18 the Test Ban Amendment Conference at the United Nations considered strengthening the Partial Test Ban Treaty to a comprehensive test ban.

The conferees voted 74 yes, 19 abstaining, and 2 no (Britain and the United States) to reconvene, probably in 1993.

This first amendment conference had a big bearing on the future of the species. The lack of national media coverage was strange — and shameful.

TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee

Bush is right on

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

These people, including the editor of the Eagle, who are always criticizing President George Bush for trying to stop that insane idiot, Saddam Hussein, make me sick. We are lucky there were no people like them in the early '40s, otherwise the Holocaust might have been in the United States.

RICHARD RETZEL

East Center Street
Lee

Opposed to this war

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I am against this Persian Gulf war on every level of my being, and may anyone who calls me unpatriotic be cursed with the karma of all the sufferers until the end of time.

DEIDRE CONSOLATI

57 Main St.
Lee

Perfect pitch? Well, almost

LEE
Do you know the world is out of tune?"

"No, but if you hum a few bars I think I can fake it."

Such is the typical banter among jazz musicians. Yes, the world is out of tune. And so am I. And so, probably, are you — unless of course you have what is called "perfect pitch," in which case, you are a rarity. Only one out of every 2,000 people can identify and recall musical notes exactly, without having any other note as a reference point.

If you have perfect pitch, you can also, without any effort at all, detect when one single instrument in a symphony orchestra is only a fraction of a milli-vibration out of tune. Not being one who is blessed with this gift, I can only imagine that for the perfect pitcher any sound that is not absolutely in perfect pitch sounds like fingernails scraping across a blackboard. What passes for the vast majority of us as beautiful music must, for this gifted person, grate upon the nerves like Shakespeare's "sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh."

These thoughts were prompted by a New York Times News Service article [Eagle, Nov. 20] that discussed the substantial progress now being made in establishing the genetic basis for perfect pitch. It seems that most people who have it are born with it, that no amount of musical training can give it to any of us.

Where does that leave this avid classical and jazz music lover and sometime professional jazz musician? It leaves me right back on the bandstand for my first professional jazz "gig" in a dubious gin mill called Your Brother's Suspenders in Fairfield, Conn. The year is 1968, and I am sitting (also shaking) there, trumpet in hand, trying to tune up with the six other musicians of the Easy Riders Jazz Band.

After a few seconds of sounding our questionable "A's," and not yet in tune — even to my imperfect ear — trombonist/band leader Bill Bissonette bangs his foot on the stand to get our attention and shouts, "Close enough for jazz... 'Ja-Da' in F." And off we go.

Such was my abrupt entrance into the world of professional jazz. Up to that point, I had thought I knew something about it, and maybe even something about how to play it. But the essence of jazz had escaped me. I learned a lot that summer playing with the Easy Riders, particularly from the visiting Preservation Hall Jazz Band old-timers who sat in with us. With virtually no formal musical background, these jazz pros, more often than not, played just slightly and teasingly out of tune or off pitch, bending their notes, springing their rhythms to suit their fancy. The result: a music full of feeling and soul. To traditional jazz aficionados it's called "the truth."

So it was no longer perfect pitch or musical perfection that I was looking for. It was something more subtle, more elusive — something that couldn't be computerized, couldn't be synthesized, couldn't be taught. Where would I find it? Only inside myself and inside others.

Since that summer of '68, I have gradually developed an increasing respect for imperfection in music and the other performing arts. Whether it be a Seiji Ozawa trying to pull four lumbering brass bands together in a spectacular performance of the Berlioz "Requiem" last summer, Berkshire Public Theatre's Frank Bessell trying to galvanize a group of amateur and professional musicians and actors into a superb 1979 performance of "Jesus Christ, Superstar," or the Pittsfield High School marching band lumbering along Pomeroy Avenue, not perfectly in tune, not perfectly in step, but nonetheless spirited, musical and accomplished — the message is the same — art reaches out for, but never achieves, perfection.

I find I have less and less patience with those reviewers and critics of the arts who hold up impossible standards of perfection for professional performing artists, and even for amateurs. If nature abhors a vacuum, I think it is equally true that nature abhors perfection. Who can draw a perfect circle? Who can produce the perfect performance of the Berlioz "Requiem?" Who can be the perfect concert pianist?

We don't have to abjure all standards though. Along the road to the perfection we will never reach, there are hosts of relative standards and reasonable expectations that guide us. Not long ago, while listening to WMHT, I heard the National Cello Ensemble start to play Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." I couldn't believe it. They were unbearably out of tune. I had to turn the radio off.

However, if I could teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, I doubt that I would, because we'd lose something — the very essence of human artistic creation itself.

Lee residents apprehensive about string of burglaries

LEE — Rosalyn and William Constantopoulos of 69 Housatonic St. are anxiously alert these days: Their neighbors' houses have been robbed and they've been getting some weird "hang-up" phone calls.

"People on both sides of us have been robbed," said Rosalyn Constantopoulos, who with her husband owns Bill's Restaurant in town. "We really need a neighborhood alert."

Lee police said three of the breaks reportedly occurred on Friday night on Housatonic Street. They would not provide addresses, but neighbors said two occurred in a duplex at 34 Housatonic and the third occurred next door at the Hebert Realty office.

Others in area

The Constantopouloses said they have heard of a number of other breaks in the neighborhood. One reportedly occurred within the past few days on Lois Avenue as well, on which police provided no information.

Constantopoulos said she has conferred with neighbors who have also reported receiving hang-up phone calls, and she suspects the burglars are calling houses to see if people are at home.

Police said so far VCRs have been the only items stolen this week, and those incidents are still under investigation.

Lee police said three of the breaks reportedly occurred on Friday night.

Officer William J. Bartini said there had been about 10 break-ins over the last six months.

Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins said his home on Franklin Street was broken into about four weeks ago when the family was at a 5:30 Mass, but nothing was taken.

Another family on Fuller Street lost nearly all their Christmas gifts, said Hodgkins, when someone broke in a few days after Christmas. He said his family had also received "hang-up" phone calls.

The Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on Center Street was also burglarized when someone broke into a back door and stole money before Christmas, the manager confirmed yesterday.

Last week, after a series of five breaks, police urged residents to make sure their doors are locked and take other precautions when they are out of town.

Bartini said that anyone who sees anything suspicious should contact the Police Department.

The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, February 5, 1991 — B5

In the Berkshires

Lee board favors cable competition

LEE — The Selectmen last night put themselves on record in favor of inviting other cable television companies to discuss providing cable service in Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington when the present service contract expires in August 1992.

The present provider of cable service in the four-town region is Century Berkshire Cable Corp., which last week announced a 19 percent rate increase, to take effect March 1.

Stames Vranas, one of Lee's delegates to the four-town Cable Advisory Committee, pressed the Selectmen for a reaction to the raise and a statement on what might be done about it.

"It goes without saying we're very upset," said Chairman Joseph F. Dupont. "There's no reason why the committee can't invite other cable companies to discuss service."

Vranas, who enumerated several of Century's rate increases over the past five years, said the committee "might look for another cable service." There are "some angry people" on that committee, he said.

The four-town committee will conduct its February meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Stockbridge Town Hall. Herbert Wolff of Great Barrington, the chairman, said Sharon O'Malley, general counsel for the Century Communications Corp. of New Canaan, Conn., parent of Century Berkshire, will be present.

In the Berkshires

Castronova disputes Deely's comment

LEE — Joseph Castronova, chairman of the Board of Public Works, told the Selectmen on Monday night that J. Peter Scoloro, public works superintendent, had not been "stripped of his power."

He said he wanted to make that clear in light of a remark made at a Dec. 20 town meeting by Martin Deely, one of the town meeting representatives, to the effect that Scoloro's authority over his job should be "reinstated."

Castronova, a controversial figure whom some townspeople have accused of creating turmoil in the Department of Public Works, said the enabling act creating the board authorizes it to supervise and direct the superintendent.

His statement, coming at the end of a discussion with Selectmen about some appropriation requests for the fiscal year beginning July 1, drew a retort from Selectman Diane P. Roosa that Deely, in her view, was correct.

"I agree with Martin Deely that [Scoloro's] power has been stripped," she said. And in regard to the authorization of the enabling act, she said the Public Works Board "still has to answer to the Selectmen, and I think they haven't got that message yet."

Who will pay for the war?

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

A lot of people seem to be wondering how we are going to pay for the war with Iraq, especially if it turns out to be a long, drawn out affair.

I propose that the government implement "mobilization," as in World War II, and that the military-industrial complex that for so many years has been making megaprofits supplying the military go on a cost only basis, forfeiting any profits to the companies and stockholders as their contribution to the war effort.

The banking industry could lighten the burden on the Treasury by suspending interest payments on loans to the government until the war is over or even refinancing loans at the new lower rates that are now available. (I've always wondered why the government doesn't do that anyway.)

Large corporations and the super-rich could be levied a "quarterly war tax." We would probably see a quick cure for the problem if shock to the corporate pocketbook was felt as hard as the shock to the middle-class pocketbook.

If the government does not come up with some creative and bold means to pay for this war by those who can afford to pay a little more, it will fall on the backs of those least able to pay, namely the poor, elderly and young, by the cancellation of social programs, medical care cost cuts and educational cutbacks.

Don't be surprised if this war is quietly downgraded to a "United Nations police action" or some other metaphor to escape the type of government seizure of military weapons-making facilities that happens during wartime mobilization.

Don't be surprised when the corporations that got "fat" during

the Reagan years of unprecedented buildup (that hasn't been paid for yet) get even fatter.

Don't be surprised if the rich will get richer and the poor get poorer.

Don't be surprised when this war for peace and justice leaves us further behind in our own "war against crime" as our "thousand points of light" dwindle down to a few candles fighting to stay lit in a hurricane.

GLENN FERRELL

Greylock Street
Lee

Unlikely luncheon bill elicits public apology

storage issues; so, it was a luncheon meeting, said Bean.

LEE — The issue of the unlikely luncheon bill, which generated unexpected conflict among a number of town officials during the past week, was laid to rest — or partly so — on Friday.

It was a misunderstanding, said Selectman William D. Bean. As a result Bean issued a public apology to Fire Chief Ronald Driscoll, who was upset by the whole affair.

It seemed innocent enough to begin with: The Selectmen Monday night found among the bills they had to approve for payment one for what appeared to be a \$45 luncheon at Sullivan's Station restaurant for the state fire marshal.

The marshal, Joseph A. O'Keefe, and one of his assistants had been in town the previous week to conduct an appeal hearing. They stayed overnight to visit some fuel terminals in town that were a subject of the hearing.

Spotting the bill, Selectman Diane P. Roosa said, in effect, it seemed a bit arrogant of O'Keefe to submit a bill to the town when the town had not invited him here. Her two colleagues agreed, and they voted not to pay it.

But, according to Bean, it turned out that although O'Keefe's name was on it, the bill was actually paid by Driscoll out of his own pocket, and not just for O'Keefe, but for O'Keefe's assistant and for Driscoll and Deputy Fire Chief Alan Sparks. The four were conferring on the fuel-

Driscoll had determined by checking with the town clerk that it was appropriate to submit the bill to the Selectmen for payment from the chief's discretionary fund, Bean said.

He said he was sorry it all happened, particularly since accounts of it appeared in weekly newspapers and generated considerable public comment. Roosa, too, said it was clear on looking at the bill more carefully that it had been submitted by Driscoll, not O'Keefe.

While the Selectmen's vote not to pay the bill still stands, it could be rescinded or superseded at a subsequent Selectmen's meeting if a request is made, Roosa said. The next regular meeting is tomorrow night.

Cable price hike stirs South County revolt

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Like a number of cable-television subscribers in South County, Joseph Puleri of Debra Avenue is angry. After March 1, his bill from Century Berkshire Cable Corp. will be \$3 higher than it is now.

"I don't think they can justify going up like that," he said. "I don't see any improvement in service."

The increase doesn't sound like much: \$3 a month, from the present \$15.95 to \$18.95 for the basic 33-channel service. But it's an increase of nearly 19 percent, and it comes on top of similarly

large increases in May 1990 and April 1989. Back then, the charge for the basic service was a mere \$11.

All of which, if you compute it, comes to roughly 72 percent in less than two years.

Century Berkshire's announcement of its most recent rise was presented last week to the boards of selectmen in the four towns — Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington — that make up its service area.

And the reaction from the boards, and right afterward from members of the four-town Cable Advisory Committee, made Puleri's comment seem mild by comparison.

Century Berkshire Cable has boosted rates roughly 72 percent in less than two years.

"Outrageous" was the most common remark. It has turned into something of a rallying cry among committee members and various selectmen who are asserting that Century Berkshire is going to have much to answer for when negotiations for a

new contract begin sometime next year.

The four-town committee will hold its monthly meeting tonight at 7 at Stockbridge Town Hall.

Company representatives, including Andrew Tow, vice president of Century Communications Corp. of New Canaan, Conn., Century Berkshire's parent company, say that despite the anger, the increase is justified.

The costs of programming have skyrocketed in the past five years, Tow argued, and the cable companies are just as vulnerable as individuals and other industries to the pressures of inflation and the marketplace.

CABLE, continued on B5

Cable price hike stirs revolt

■ CABLE, from B1

"People look at us as a giant TV company out to rape them," he said. "Well, we're not. And we're not just sitting here counting our money."

Century Berkshire's 10-year contract to provide cable service to the four-town region expires Aug. 31, 1992, and the best estimate at the moment is that talks for a new agreement will probably begin roughly a year from now.

In the meantime, residents and town representatives are saying that the new contract had better be a lot tougher than the present one if the towns are going to retain Century Berkshire. Some are even calling for negotiations with a new cable company.

Not a simple matter

Whether this anger will be sustained for the next year or so, and whether subscribers will still perceive the monthly fee to be outrageous at that time are questions that only time will answer. But several people concede it is not a simple thing to keep the fire burning.

For one thing, says Herbert Wolff of Great Barrington, chairman of the advisory committee, subscribers have to specify deficiencies in service and then give the provider time to respond to such complaints, and correct them if possible.

What would happen, he asked rhetorically, if the subscribers jettisoned the company and the company in turn brought suit in court on grounds of wrongful action?

The prospect of going without cable service while litigation is argued would not appeal to the average cable user, who might then blame his local selectman, Wolff suggests.

He also suggests that, assuming the old cable company is turned out, it's possible that a new cable company would be no better. "The remedy," he said, "could be worse than the ailment."

And, as Joe Puleri put it, "Most people don't want to go without their TVs." This means, he said, that subscribers, after a short time and a bit of grumbling, will get used to the higher monthly fees and come to accept them.

In demand

Cable television service is a commodity in demand, he says. "How many antennas do you see on roofs any more?"

There are some stirrings afoot nonetheless. Despite his devil's

advocate remarks, Wolff says the advisory committee is going to assess Century Berkshire's performance in the next few months with a highly critical eye and is going to ask hard questions when it meets with Century Berkshire representatives across the table.

A year ago, the four towns notified Century Berkshire they were going to be investigating the cable service with just such an objective in mind. The contract and the law require such notice be given during a window period from 30 to 36 months before contract expiration.

The window in the Century Berkshire contract was open from August 1989 to March 1990.

John W.P. Mooney, a Great Barrington selectman and consultant to municipalities on a number of things including cable-television contracts, says there are some options that may be open to the four towns here. One of them, he said, may be to limit the duration of cable contracts.

Passing a bylaw

"There is an interesting body of law that says a community can pass a cable-TV bylaw at a town meeting, unilaterally," he said. Such a bylaw "might decree, for example, that there will be only two years before [contract] renewal again."

He said he would not be surprised "to see something like this on the [Great Barrington] town meeting warrant next May."

Cable contracts commonly are negotiated for 10-year periods on grounds that such a span of time allows cable companies to recoup their capital investments in equipment and material.

A number of the 7,300 subscribers in Century Berkshire's service area indeed agree that the company has made capital improvements. According to Tow, whose name rhymes with now, Century has spent a lot of money on new cable and ancillary equipment and has increased the array of programs available for subscribers.

And even though the present contract does not require 100 percent coverage of all homes in the four towns, the company has added new lines anyway, he said.

Century bought the system in 1982, when it was called the Berkshire Cable Television Co., from a Rhode Island partnership for \$3.9 million.

60-channel capacity

At the time, said Tow, the system's capacity was 12 channels. Now it is 60. Although the

monthly basic-subscription rate has soared from \$8 to \$15.95 — soon to be \$18.95 — the cost per channel, he said, has dropped from 73 cents to 57 cents.

There are always disagreements on these things, and one of the arguments from the subscribing towns is that Century Berkshire's "basic" service is much more than basic and, therefore, too costly.

Many people, particularly elderly people on fixed incomes, only want a lean service of a few channels, not an overstuffed sofa, some say.

Century Berkshire's basic service consists of 33 channels, observed Wolff, and this is substantially more than the "basic" service offered by neighboring Warner Cable Communications of Pittsfield, Richmond and Dalton. There, customers can choose a low-cost option of 12 channels for \$12.95.

In North Berkshire, Adelphia Cable Communications of North Adams sells what it calls a "broadcast" service of 12 channels for \$9.95 to subscribers in the five-town region it serves.

In light of the recent assertions from selectmen and other town officials that such a service is needed and would be snapped up, Century may be willing to consider providing one, said Tow. But across the 55 cable companies that Century owns in the country, he said, "we find very little demand for such service. Most people order [cable service] for entertainment, not just to get NBC or CBS."

The industry itself pegs the portion of subscribers who sign up for these minimal broadcast services at under 1 percent.

In the Warner Cable area, says Warner manager Salvatore Grenillo, the percentage is closer to half of that, which means that fewer than 100 of Warner's 20,000 customers subscribe to the 12-channel offering.

The overwhelming majority sign up for Warner's "standard" service of 34 channels, which costs \$15.50 a month.

Installation fees

Century has not only raised its monthly rate, but it has increased an array of one-time fees, like the primary outlet connection for a new subscriber. It's now \$25. After March 1, installation will be \$60.

Selectmen and advisory committee members say this, too, is outrageous. But Century's Tow contends that the connection fee hasn't risen in several years and has not kept up with the rising costs of labor, materials, insurance and the like that constitute expenditures for the service.

Told that Adelphia in North Adams had just increased its connection fee, but only to \$25, he said that if so, "it doesn't reflect their true costs." Raymond Fisher, Adelphia's general manager, did say the previous fee, \$10, "didn't even get us out of the parking lot."

He and Warner's Grenillo agreed with Tow that program costs are rising dramatically while the cable companies "take the heat."

"A lot of people don't know this," said Fisher.

No dollar figures

But at the moment, this sort of argument is not cutting much ice in the Century Berkshire service area. For one thing, Tow declines to provide any dollar figures to support his assertions, and dollar figures are what town officials want.

Century, along with other cable companies, files financial reports with the commonwealth's Community Antenna Television Commission in Boston, but the

'People look at us as a giant TV company out to rape them. Well, we're not. And we're not just sitting here counting our money.'

irony, says Great Barrington's Wolff, is that the commission "is restricted by law from disclosing what's in them."

Whether the current anger will be sustained in Century's four-town service area is open to speculation.

Enormous profits?

There are people who believe, as Wolff says, that Century "is making enormous profits" even though Century denies it.

Eileen Mooney, a member of the Great Barrington Planning Board, says an organization called Consumers for Fair Rates has just been organized and is seeking a lawyer "possibly to bring a class action" against Century.

Cable rates, which used to be negotiated, have climbed since 1986 when the federal Cable Communications Policy Act became effective and removed the setting of rates and related charges from previous regulation.

Because of rate increases in the intervening years, there is now some interest in having Congress re-regulate the rates.

William August, counsel for the state's Community Antenna Television Commission, said that rates from \$15.95 to \$18.95 seem to be "within the ballpark" of rates in Massachusetts. "But a lot of people think the ballpark is too high and that's what the debate in Washington is about."

The trouble is, there are cable-industry advocates as well as consumer advocates in Congress, and it's not clear if re-regulation bills have a chance. Several were put into the legislative stream last year and failed to achieve passage. Three have already been resubmitted for this year.

What's clear from all this, suggests Philip B. Hopkins, Century Berkshire's general manager for the last six months, is that local cable service "is important to residents. They value it, and that is why they get so upset when costs go up."

"We as operators realize this, and we do not dismiss it lightly."

Hodgkins opposes proposed easing of state road rules

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The commonwealth's new commissioner of public works is "premature" in his criticism of policies that affect the Routes 7 and 20 corridor in Berkshire County, state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said yesterday.

He said that, as a result, he has formally invited the commissioner, James Kerasiotes, for a meeting next week and to "come to the Berkshires" to see for himself that existing policies are "working well."

Kerasiotes, in remarks quoted in yesterday's Eagle, said that his agency is in the economic-development business and that he considers current regulations governing state highways too restrictive and ripe for review.

To Hodgkins, any loosening of existing policies and regulations would return the Routes 7 and 20 corridor to the days when the state Department of Public Works "gave out curb cuts like gumdrops."

Putting this in check, he said, was the intension of language he managed to insert into a public works bond issue three years ago. The language requires that any new or existing curb cut be reviewed for traffic and other impacts when new businesses are being sited.

Hodgkins said he wants Kerasiotes to attend a meeting of the Routes 7 and 20 Corridor of Critical Concern Committee, made up of community and business representatives from Pittsfield and South Berkshire communities in which the routes lie.

Purpose of restriction

The focus of attention is on the commercially built-up section from Lenox to Pittsfield.

The reason for the restriction on curb cuts has been to reduce congestion and facilitate traffic flow, Hodgkins observed. To undo this would be to invite chaos, he suggested.

Weighing in with Hodgkins in response to the Kerasiotes remarks was George S. Wislocki, executive director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and a member of the corridor group, who called Kerasiotes' statements "incredibly sad."

"The work done by Jane Garvey and Fred Salvucci," he said, "was very probably the most significant growth-management initiative of the last administration." Garvey was Kerasiotes' predecessor, and Salvucci was transportation secretary. Both supported the curb-cut reviews and the corridor group.

Wislocki also said criticism Kerasiotes made of Garvey's management of the DPW was "utterly uncalled for."

Hodgkins, who echoed Wislocki's endorsement of Garvey, said another problem with Kerasiotes' criticism of highway policy is that the policy came about as a result of community input, not the actions of "bureaucrats in Boston."

"One of the concerns we have for economic development," he said, "is to have traffic flow smoothly and to get to North Berkshire. Giving curb cuts out like gumdrops doesn't do this."

Lee board refuses to let fire chief quit

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Ronald J. Driscoll, who has been chief of the volunteer Lee Fire Department since August 1988, abruptly submitted his resignation to the Selectmen last night, generating an emotional argument among the latter, who refused to accept it pending an appeal to Driscoll to reconsider.

The three Selectmen voted to send him a letter asking him not to resign. It was not clear if the letter would contain an apology as one of the three, William D. Bean, wanted, but they were agreed on the principal request.

The resignation was prompted by what Bean said were newspaper reports last week of the Selectmen's refusal to pay a \$45 luncheon bill they initially thought was submitted by state Fire Marshal Joseph A. O'Keefe, who had come to town to conduct a hearing.

Since O'Keefe was not in town at the town's behest, the Selectmen decided it was an inappropriate bill. Subsequently, Driscoll said he had submitted it after first determining from the town accountant that it was appropriate to charge it to his own expense account.

It was a luncheon at which Driscoll, O'Keefe and two other fire officials discussed fuel licenses and related subjects, said Bean.

But Driscoll was so upset by the news accounts of the matter that he told Bean and Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont he was going to resign. Bean issued a public apology of his own over the weekend and then pushed last night for a sentence of apology in the upcoming letter to Driscoll.

Dupont and Selectman Diane P. Roosa agreed that they didn't want Driscoll to resign — all said he has "done an excellent job" as chief — but felt they couldn't apologize for articles written by reporters.

Driscoll "wants you people to give him the respect he deserves," said Bean during an emotional outburst.

"I didn't know we didn't give him respect," said Dupont.

Selectmen applaud plan to film TV movie in Lee

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — This town is going to become the setting in April for a \$1.4 million television movie whose production will provide jobs for as many as 150 extras and 20 to 30 crew members, and will generate income for innkeepers, caterers, merchants, police officers and others.

Nan Bernstein, a resident of Tyringham and co-producer of the film, told this to the Selectmen last night during their regular weekly meeting and immediately reaped enthusiastic remarks of welcome from the usually somber board.

'Shot in the arm'

"It sounds fantastic," said William D. Bean. "We could sure use a shot in the arm."

"It does sound great," said Diane P. Roosa.

"I can't think of anything negative," said the chairman, Joseph F. Dupont. "I'm sure we'll be glad to accommodate you."

Bernstein, who has lived in the Berkshires 10 years, said the production, currently titled "Lethal Innocence," is destined to be shown on the Public Broadcasting Service's

"American Playhouse" later in the year.

She said that the budget for the production is \$1.4 million and that "somewhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000 should float through the local economy" while the crews and actors are in town.

The probable date for starting the filming is April 1, she said, and it would last 21 to 26 days, depending on the versatility of the Berkshire countryside.

The story is one that has a factual basis in the efforts of residents of the south central Vermont town of Windsor in the 1980s to find and bring to their town the mother and sisters of a Cambodian boy who had fled the Khmer Rouge and was given a home by a Windsor family.

Bernstein said production company members had taken photographs of a number of Vermont towns in which they considered filming, but when she saw them she said that "the town of Lee looked as good as they did, only better."

But besides the New England town setting, the production crew needs to shoot film against a background that can double as the Cam-

MOVIE, continued on B3

Film to be made in Lee

MOVIE, from B1

bodian countryside, Bernstein said. If the Berkshires aren't up to this, the company will have to find suitable background elsewhere, which explains why the filming time could be 21 days or 26.

The company producing the film is Turtleback Productions, based in New York City. Bernstein said that she and production coordinator Randy Sokol, who accompanied her to the Selectmen's meeting, are the only two company members in town at the moment but that more will follow soon.

The location managers will be Brian and Sara Beth Howard, who hail from Louisiana. The production office is at 154 West Park St.

Bernstein and Sokol said talks are under way with various actors and actresses for the main roles in the film, which will be 85 to 90 minutes in length.

Food and lodging

She said Turtleback will add the town of Lee to its liability insurance policy, something the

company does wherever it is. It will eventually contact hotels and caterers to provide lodging and food, and churches, perhaps, to find a parish hall that can serve as a dining room.

About one-third of the crew, which could embrace people from drivers to tradesmen, will be hired locally, she said. This could amount to as many as 30 people.

She and Sokol said they were contacting town officials early so that they will be able to head off "annoyances" before they occur. They gave as examples friction between camera crew members and townspeople over the use of, say, a house or building as a film location, or the halting of traffic on a street for a few minutes while filming is under way.

Because of the period in which the story takes place — 1984-87 — automobiles of later vintage would have to be removed from curbsides and the like. The yellow ribbons tied to door posts and signs down Main Street would have to be taken down for the same reason, but the company's art department would put them back up again, Bernstein said.

War is failed diplomacy

To the Editor of THE EAGLE: —

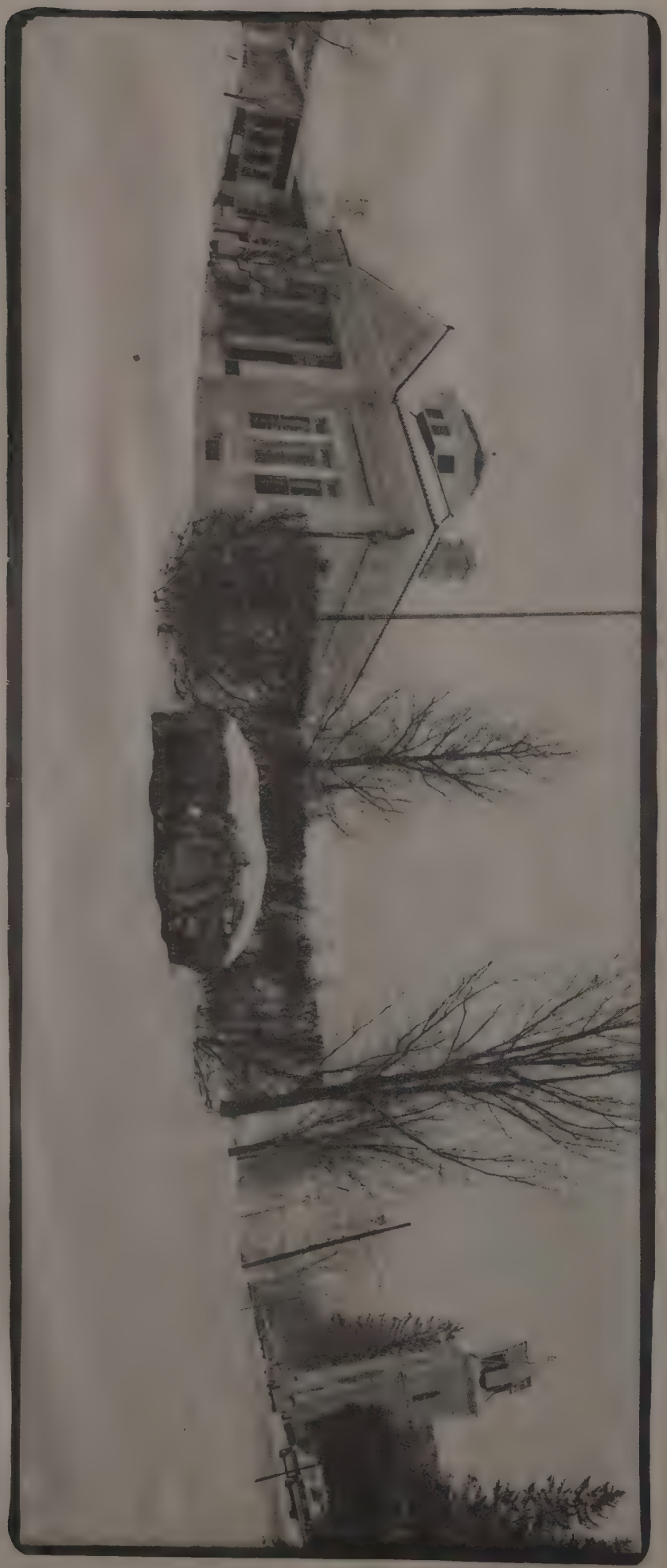
I love the United States and am distressed by the fact that once again we are asking our men and women to fight and die in a war because of failed diplomacy. For years during the Reagan administration, we supplied Saddam Hussein with arms in his war against Iran.

Needed domestic programs were put on hold. It always seems it's the poor and middle class who are called to fight and die for our nation, while the rich and powerful can keep themselves and their children out of the service.

It sickens me to watch daily on TV our commentators being spoon-fed by the military, to hear them gloss over the few casualties our nation has suffered — one dead American is one too many. It sickens me to hear that those who demonstrate for peace or are against the war are labeled unpatriotic, and accused of giving aid and comfort to the enemy. It sickens me to know that our communities, our state and nation is going broke.

Why not give peace a chance, it's cheaper in terms of life and a sounder economy. This war in the Middle East is wrong, a result of greed and failed diplomacy.

JOHN R. COPELAND
264 Main St.
Lee



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Eagle Ad 2.13.91

Lee girls clinch South title ^{2.12.91}

The Lee High School girls' basketball team clinched the Berkshire County league's Southern Division last night with a 58-43 win over defending division champion Lenox.

The victory is the 25th consecutive for the unbeaten Wildcats, who won last year's Division 3 state title.

"I think we're one of the two best Division 3 teams in Western Mass. this year," said Lee coach Tom Cinella, who can now look ahead to the county title game and the state tournament.

Taconnic, meanwhile, stayed two games ahead of Pittsfield in the Northern Division. The Braves posted a 58-41 win over Monument and had to play without leading scorer Jamie Murphy, who is out with the flu. Dana Hosker came off the bench and scored a career-high 10 points for Taconnic, which had to find a way to replace Murphy's 18-point per game average.

Pittsfield stayed in the Northern Division hunt with a 55-35 win over Hoosac while St. Joseph's outscored Mount Greylock 59-41. Mount Everett had a big second

Girls' Basketball

half from Amy Joch in its 52-31 win over McCann Tech while Wahconah Regional snapped a four-game losing streak with a 42-15 win over Drury.

Lee 58, Lenox 43

LEE — Lenox gave the powerful Wildcats a battle, trailing 29-21 at halftime.

"The Lenox team played hard," Cinella said. "I've got nothing but praise for the job the players and the coaching staff did."

"We set goals prior to the season," Cinella added. "And one of those was winning the Southern title, which we didn't do last year."

Samantha Herrick, the league's leading scorer, led the visitors with 16 hard-earned points. Emily Roche added 10 for the Millionaires while Nicole Field chipped in with eight.

"We really played good defense on the ball," Cinella said. "Samantha, though, made some really tough shots."

Lee was paced by Shannon Driscoll, who had 16 points, 8 rebounds and 3 blocks. Jessie McManmon added 13 points, 8 rebounds and 4 steals. Michele Naventi and Jen Finnegan each added 10 points for the Wildcats.

Lee won the jayvee game 34-23 behind Kelsey Scarpa's 18 points.

Lee selectmen OK eminent-domain proceedings ^{2/13/91}

In an effort to break an impasse in developing a Lee industrial park off state Route 102, the Lee selectmen Monday authorized the Lee Community Development Corp. to begin "friendly" eminent-domain proceedings to acquire property for the long-awaited project.

CDC member Anthony Caropreso told the board that the Hopkins family did not want to sell land that would provide access for the park because of concerns about hazardous waste on the property. To transfer property, the family would have to conduct a study of the property, which had been used as a town dump. Caropreso said the Hopkins family does not want to risk discovering a very expensive problem.

By having the town take the property through eminent-domain proceedings, he said, the town would take on that risk. The town has been trying

I'll fight for a choice

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

There is no question that there are many homeless people in this country. No one will argue that there are people who go to bed hungry and are in need of medical care. These are troubled times, the economy is shaky and good jobs are hard to find.

The billions being spent on this war could probably help a lot of that. Let's forget the oil question and the confusing Mideast politics for the moment. In the near future the possibility exists that a Gadhafi or a Saddam Hussein could possess a nuclear weapon and the means to deliver it. At this point two fingers in a peace sign will mean diddley!

No sane man or woman wants war, but sometimes to achieve peace you must do more than turn the other cheek. The world was caught between Iraq and a hard place. President Bush gave Saddam Hussein a choice — he waited, we waited, the world waited. President Bush then felt he had no choice but to do what he did. I support that choice.

I thank God I live in a country where we are free to make choices. I'll fight for that any day.

Lee Eagle ^{2.14.91} MIKE FIELD

The Advocate Feb. 13, 1991 Page 18

Exhibit will look back at sports in Lee

By Kathleen Pease

Attention, Lee sports fans! Dig through your closets, get out your scrapbooks and dust off those trophies — the Lee Historic Commission is collecting sports paraphernalia for an upcoming exhibit at the Lee Library.

The exhibit marks the first time the young but rapidly growing commission will host its own show. Loans of various equipment, uniforms, photos and newspaper clippings are needed, says commission Chairman Carol Marino.

"What I would like is one of the old football uniforms or baseball uniforms and the hats that went with them," she says. "Even if there's an old pair of field hockey shoes — I don't care how they smell — I'd just like to get my hands on them."

Among the items Marino has collected so far is a photo of the 1953 basketball team, the first to win the Berkshire County championship, an accomplishment recognized at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield.

Marino also has a 1952 photo and newspaper clipping of Lee High football star Eddie Thomas, posing with his father, "Cookie" Thomas (a member of the Wildcats himself in the late 1920s), and coach John Consolati.

Although the 3-year-old commission has participated in other exhibits with the Berkshire County Historical Commission and the state Historic Commission, said Marino, "We've decided to have our first exhibit without any outside help. We've decided to honor the history of sports in Lee."

Marino said she has access to quite a few trophies and yearbooks from the past four decades that have been housed at the high school and the library, but would love to see donations of sports items from the 1940s and earlier. She's also hoping that women's sports, which began at the high school in 1964 under the leadership of Linda (Ludlow) Moran, will be well-represented. The Lee High School girls basketball team have won the state championship.

Items can be left at the library on Main Street Feb. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information or to make arrangements for pickup, call Dee Dee Fraser at 243-1302, or Caroline Young at 243-4848. Items will be accepted through March for the April exhibit and will be returned when the exhibit ends.

"What we're hoping is that Lee residents will get enough trust in us to enable us to do other exhibits," Marino says. "But without the cooperation of the public, it's hard to put an exhibit of real local interest together."

Marino was named the first chairman of the commission when it was formed in 1988. Her job as administrative assistant to the Lee Planning Board has placed her in a good



Carol Marino, chair of the Lee Historic Commission says the sports exhibit is a step ahead for the commission. (Photo by Erik Bruun)

position to lead the fledgling commission, the purpose of which is to preserve the community's historic resources.

Several of the commission's accomplishments include adding two roads to a list of scenic roads, completing an inventory of the historic room at the library and creating an oral history through interviews with several longtime Lee residents.

"We're really excited. Lee has an awful lot to offer and we've now been able to give Lee the recognition it deserves," Marino says, adding that before the founding of the commission, the town had seldom been represented as other than a mill town, but harbors a rich history neglected until recently.

Marino is leaving her post at the planning board this month to become a legislative aide to state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee. She is also nearing the end of her three-year appointment as commission chairman and believes she cannot maintain that responsibility for another term with her added duties for Hodgkins.

"We've just about met all our goals, and the exhibit is an example of the commission stepping out on its own," she says. "Without the cooperation of the members, the commission could not have succeeded. I've had a ball with it."

Taxes, fees imperil spring in Tyringham

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As if a 3,400 percent increase in testing and permit fees is not enough, Mildred Holmes and her brother Donald Hopkins Sr. face a 489 percent hike in real estate taxes on the Tyringham Road property that contains their spring.

But because the spring over the years has become a source of water for many townspeople as well as countless members of the bottled-water crowd in surrounding communities, town officials are showing some interest in determining if the town can help.

Holmes and Hopkins will talk to the Board of Public Works on Monday to see if the town might rent the spring, for example, or do something else to help them reduce their soaring costs.

Holmes told the Selectmen three nights ago that she and her brother don't want to close the spring, which has been a source of drinking water for decades for area residents as well as seasonal visitors.

But she said the tax bill, atop the recently announced fee increases, is a substantial blow. "I think it would be a hardship for us to keep it open," she said.

SOURCE, continued on B4

Taxes, fees may force shutdown of spring

■ SOURCE, from B1

Holmes said her new real estate tax bill is \$1,588.80, more than a fivefold increase over last year's bill of \$269.61.

The town over the past year has undergone a statutorily required revaluation. The land containing the spring is a tract of about 50 acres on the east side of the road, with a small parcel on the west side, Holmes said. Tax bills have been mailed out over the past two weeks.

An Eagle article Sunday reported that Holmes and Hopkins recently were informed by the state Department of Environmental Protection that they would have to pay \$550 for a permit and another \$500 for yearly testing.

The new fees, obvious results of the commonwealth's fiscal drought, bring in money to offset loss of state tax revenue.

Anyone who thinks they might be reduced should think again, said Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont. He said Gov. William F. Weld, who spoke to selectmen at a Massachusetts Municipal Association convention in Boston last month, "spoke only of rolling back local aid," not fees.

Holmes said that she and her brother used to pay \$30 for monthly testing of the spring water by a local laboratory, Berkshire Enviro-Labs Inc., and that the new fees are staggering by comparison.

Pipe carries water

Many years ago, Holmes' father, Seth Hopkins, installed a pipe from the spring to the edge of Tyringham Road so that passers-by could fill bottles. More recently, Donald Hopkins added a series of taps.

The spring bubbles to the surface on a slope above the road. If she and her brother "close" the

spring, Holmes said, they would do so by removing the piping. But the spring would continue to flow, as springs do, and the water would run through a culvert under the road and into the lowland on the other side.

There was some talk at the Selectmen's meeting that the town, which once rented the spring years ago, might do so again. If so, the cost of water testing could be reduced because coliform tests could be conducted at no charge by the town.

But there would be other tests, said Dr. Charles W. Stratton, chairman of the Board of Health. "I think there are some 80 different things they test for now."

Tests of the water at the Hopkins spring have always shown it to be pure, said Holmes. "We take it home by the truckload," she said, adding that she remembered that "when we had the drought, cars lined up back to Tyringham. Some people were drawing water for their cows."

The last significant drought in the Berkshires was in the mid-1960s.

Can town afford to help?

Stratton said such a bountiful resource should not be let go. But whether in this liability-conscious age the town can afford to rent it or share responsibility for it in some other way is a question that probably should be answered by the town's lawyer, he and Selectman William D. Bean suggested.

Joseph Castronova, chairman of the Board of Public Works, said some accommodation might be worked out. He suggested that Holmes come to that board's Monday meeting.

If agreement is reached on one solution or another, it will be recommended to the Selectmen, he said.

Lee Selectmen recognize community television group

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen gave formal recognition Monday to Community Television of Southern Berkshire as the town's "official representative" in the matter of local public-access television.

The action, which was carried unanimously, reaffirms the assignment of three town residents to membership on the CTSB board and moves CTSB a step closer to its objective of becoming, in effect, the coordinator for local television programming in the four-town region covering Lee, Lenox, Great Barrington and Stockbridge.

But while backing the nascent organization with their vote, the Selectmen took no attendant action on a year-old grant of \$5,000 from Century Berkshire Cable Corp. that was for aid in producing community television programs.

There are still some differences of opinion over the use of that sum, but the Selectmen agreed that, whichever opinion is best, it will take town meeting action to move the \$5,000 from its present account to its ultimate destination.

Sought as seed money

The members of CTSB have in the past couple of months sought to obtain the sum — and like amounts from the other three towns — as the seed money with which to equip a production facility or studio for program production.

The grants, which add up to \$20,000, came from Century Berkshire under an amendment to its current 10-year licensing agreement, to be used for "equipment to be purchased by the ... towns for origination of locally produced programs."

Great Barrington and Lenox say they will turn over their grants to CTSB.

Bruce Kaiden of Farview Street, one of Lee's three members of CTSB, said that, aside from disposition of the grant money, official endorsement of CTSB by Stockbridge would bring all four of the towns formally be-

hind the year-old organization. Except for that, he said, CTSB is "ready to be born." Using the birth metaphor, he likened the organization's place on the ladder from inception to birth as roughly equivalent to the final month of pregnancy.

But disposition of \$5,000 in funds for local TV remains up in air.

hind the year-old organization.

Except for that, he said, CTSB is "ready to be born." Using the birth metaphor, he likened the organization's place on the ladder from inception to birth as roughly equivalent to the final month of pregnancy.

Kaiden, Stephen Cozzaglio and Samuel Sorrentino are Lee's trio on CTSB's board, which, when all positions are filled, will have 12 members, three from each town. One vacancy remains for a delegate from Great Barrington.

FCC requirement

Provision of local public-access channels is a Federal Communications Commission requirement for cable TV companies. In Century Berkshire's menu, Channel 11 is the local-access channel. At the moment, its only regular features are something called "Berkshire Box Office," a review of motion pictures, on Thursday evenings; "Inside Government," Pittsfield Councilor Peter G. Arlos' presentation on Tuesday evenings; a candlepin bowling program from Ken's Bowl on alternate Wednesday nights, and an educational program, "Focus on Education," with Roselle Chartock of the North Adams State College faculty, on Friday evenings once a month from February through April.

Kaiden points out that none of these is produced in the Century

Berkshire system. Each is turned out in production facilities in either Pittsfield or North Adams and is played on tape by Century Berkshire.

It is this vacuum that CTSB hopes to fill, Kaiden suggested.

"People have to be made aware of what's available, too," said Kaiden. "This means, we'll have to do some public relations."

In talking to the Selectmen Monday, he made a pitch for the \$5,000 received by Lee from Century Berkshire. That sum doesn't buy much in the way of TV equipment, he said, but with the \$15,000 from the other three towns it could underwrite some editing equipment, a couple of tape players, a switching unit and a computer with software that would permit the digital display of letters — "readouts," in the language of the trade — on the screen.

"We're not even talking camera yet," he said.

Need for persuasion

To obtain Lee's \$5,000, Kaiden and his colleagues on CTSB are still going to have to convince Lee School Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski that CTSB is its logical destination.

Zukowski, who remembers the disbursement of the money to the four towns and its purpose, is firm that it was meant indeed for local programming, but programming produced, insofar as Lee is concerned, in the television facility in the Lee public school system.

"No," said Zukowski, "I don't think it should be turned over to another organization. But of course I'm only one person."

He has observed on a number of occasions that the school system's facilities are extensive.

New hearing planned on fuel permit

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Residents of Maple Street who say a Selectmen's hearing last month was held on a different day from the one originally scheduled have won the promise of a new hearing.

The Selectmen will confer with Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, but are assuming that a new hearing date will be set soon. "We'll readvertise," said Chairman Joseph F. Dupont. It is the latest occurrence in

what has become an ongoing community conflict over fuel-storage licenses for Lee Oil Co., which owns two sites in town, one an office and retail building at 19-21 Ferrell Ave. and the other a fuel-storage terminal and garage on outer Maple Street.

On Jan. 7, the Selectmen approved a storage license for Maple Street, and it is that date that residents say was not the one the Selectmen initially announced in December. Several Maple Street residents say the postponement date was Jan. 14.

It was so reported in one or more local newspapers, they said. "I only had a half hour's notice," said Shaun M. Smith, one of the Maple Street residents who attended the Jan. 7 license hearing. He and other residents specifically oppose the part of the license that allows Lee Oil to park a propane tank truck at the terminal overnight.

They fear a leak that could result in an explosion, although William F. Miller, owner of Lee Oil, has argued that the tank truck has automatically closing valves and that propane is not the hazard that people believe. He offered to install electronic "sniffers" and take other precautions.

Although the Selectmen granted him the license, Miller has been unable to park the truck on Maple Street. For one thing, the town fire chief has not issued an attendant permit required by law; for another, the state fire marshal has suspended the license pending his review of an appeal by Smith.

Smith and several others say it is not clear that the company ever had a license for the terminal, even though it has stored oil there for a number of years. If not, they say the Planning and Zoning boards should be consulted first before the Selectmen.

Industrial park land-takings OK'd by Lee Selectmen

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen this week authorized the town's Community Development Corp. to proceed with a "friendly" taking of property along Route 102 for the town's first industrial park.

However, it looks as though CDC members will have to conduct some additional missionary work with the property owners, who said yesterday they are irked by the absence of any prior notice.

"I'm a little angry, I can't help it," said Mildred Holmes of De-von Road, who with her brother, Donald Hopkins Sr. of West Road, owns the property in question. It was decided to them by their father, Seth Hopkins.

Holmes said she and her brother should have been notified that the property was going to be an object of discussion and possibly of some specific action, like the move toward a land-taking.

Her reaction comes at a time when the town and CDC feel they

have moved forward in the appropriate way toward creation of the industrial park, a town objective since the 1950s.

Richard E. Sizer, CDC chairman, said he appreciates the feelings of Holmes and Hopkins, but feels the land-taking will enable the town to contract for a site analysis and take that responsibility off their hands.

If the town should acquire this and two other properties to make up its long-sought industrial park, the money to pay for them would

come from Massachusetts Land Bank loans. However, the site would have to be "clean" before the land bank would make the loans, said CDC member Anthony Caropreso.

An industrial park here is seen as an attraction to new or expanding business and industry, a source of jobs and revenue. In fact, town fathers are concerned that E.C.H. Will, the manufacturing company that succeeded the former Clark-Alken firm, may leave town if it cannot find a

suitable site for a new plant here. The industrial park, they feel, would provide such a site.

But it will take as long as six months to complete a land-taking and conduct site tests, if there are no obstacles, said Caropreso.

From what Holmes and Hopkins said, the CDC may have to do some more negotiating, even though Holmes and her brother say they agree with the CDC's aims of boosting the local economy.

Donald Hopkins said yesterday

that CDC members spoke with him and his sister sometime ago about selling the property to the town, but the upshot, he said, was that "I put it on hold."

The problem, he said, is that there could be residue from an old landfill on one corner of the property. If it should prove to be contaminated, it could become a costly liability to them, he said.

This was the same feeling voiced by Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont in a meeting

LAND, continued on C2

Lee begins land-taking

■ LAND, from C1

Monday when the three-member board gave authorization to CDC to move ahead on the land-taking.

But Dupont's concern was that it would be a liability to the town, not to the Hopkins heirs. The dump, he observed, was a town dump. "We could be talking millions" in cleanup costs, he said. Even if some entity other than the town were to buy the property, he said, "we still may have to clean it up."

Although Dupont dissented on the land-taking motion, Selectmen William D. Bean and Diane P. Roosa supported it. Bean said the reason he did was that he was persuaded the taking would not be "hostile," a term describing public land-takings where the landowners don't want to sell, or don't want to sell for the appraised value.

As Bean characterized it later, the step is an important one because it moves the town toward a goal it has entertained for many years that of establishing its own industrial park.

The CDC and the Hopkinses "had come to a deadlock" over the possible effect of the old landfill, he said; nevertheless, he viewed the project as so important to the town that the land-taking was necessary.

A \$30,000 study and plan completed in 1989 by Hayes Associates of Springfield urged the town to move quickly to establish an

industrial park at the site in question.

Located on the north side of Route 102 about 1½ miles east of the Stockbridge town line, the tract embraces some 70 acres, with the portion owned by Holmes and Hopkins containing 19 acres. But these are key acres, said Bean, because they border the highway. Access to the rest of the park would presumably be gained through them.

Other landowners are Lee insurance agent Frank P. Consolati, who owns about 28 acres, and Pittsfield real estate broker Isadore Goodman, who owns about 23.

Consolati, who is also a member of the CDC, said he is perfectly willing to sell his land to the town. Goodman was out of town on vacation, but he has said in the past he is willing to sell.

Holmes and Hopkins said they, too, are willing to sell for a fair price, but they are worried about the contamination issue.

"I want to see progress. I don't want to see jobs leave town," said Holmes. "But I don't feel we should have to pay if they do find something there." The "something" would be contaminants from the dump.

"I don't feel, deep down, there's anything bad there," said Hopkins. He said the town dumped rubbish there for 2½ to three years in the late 1950s, and he does not remember it being anything but household rubbish.

Plastics recycling program to be implemented in Lee

LEE — The Selectmen last night voted to implement an interim plastics-recycling program that the chairman of the Recycling Committee said would save the town valuable space in its landfill.

It would be conducted until the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield institutes its own plastics-recycling program for member towns and cities in Western Massachusetts.

The chairman, Maynard Clemmons, said he will discuss as soon as he can a starting date with the town's public works superintendent, J. Peter Scollaro. He said there will have to be some public education first because residents will be asked to separate certain plastic containers as they now do — or are supposed to do — for paper, glass and metal. Great Barrington has just begun a similar plastics-recycling program.

For residents who take their

rubbish directly to the landfill off Woodland Road, there will be container in which to put recyclable plastic once the program begins, Clemmons said.

Residents who hire independent trash haulers will be asked to separate the recyclable plastic into reusable containers or boxes for pickup at the roadside.

Joseph Mallory of New Marlboro, who operates a trash-disposal business called The Master Garbologist, will truck the plastic away at no charge to residents. He said there is a market for it.

Plastic bottles used for such things as milk, water, soft drinks, honey, peanut butter, ketchup, cooking oil, liquid dish and laundry detergents, floor polish, lotions and shampoo are mostly recyclable, Clemmons said.

Those that are have stamps on the bottom signifying they are recyclable. Eagle 2-20-91

Lee student to play with All-State Band

LEE — Nathan Jones, a student at Lee High School, has been selected to perform in the All-State Band.

Jones, a percussionist, was selected on the basis of a recent audition. He will participate in the All-State Music Festival on March 21-23 in Worcester.

The freshman is a member of the school band and jazz ensemble. He studies privately with Jill Mongeau of Lee.

Earlier this school year, Jones was selected to the All-Western Massachusetts District Band, which performed at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in January. Eagle 2-14-91

Castronova, Roosa clear the air

LEE — Have Joseph Castronova and Diane Roosa buried the hatchet? Maybe.

Castronova, the sometimes controversial chairman of the Board of Public Works, complained at the Selectmen's meeting this week that Roosa, one of the Selectmen, had made remarks critical of him a week earlier when he was not present.

Roosa agreed and apologized. But she didn't retract the remarks, which, in sum, were that Castronova should understand that the Public Works Board is not an independent board but one that reports to the Selectmen. She said she felt he had not got that message.

Castronova said he won't quarrel with Roosa's right to her opinions but said that in any case she should have spoken out while he was still present. He had left the meeting moments earlier. Eagle 2-14-91

Film crew scouting houses in Lee area

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

2.15.91

LEE — Turtleback Productions, the company that's going to film a movie for public television here in April, is looking for a couple of good houses.

They are wanted for filming locations.

Notices posted in the Lee Congregational Church and Church-on-the-Hill in Lenox during the past week say one should be a "rambling, old farmhouse" and the other a "modest house near town."

But before homeowners pick up their telephones or line up at the door, said location manager Sara Beth Howard, they should determine if their houses match what's wanted.

The farmhouse, for example, should have clapboard siding, well-kept surroundings, large rooms with high ceilings, an open entry hall with rooms off it, a front or side porch and a large, open kitchen.

The presence of an opening or pass-through from the kitchen to either a dining or living room would be a plus, she said. Another plus would be scenic views, but the house does not have to be part of a working farm, nor are outbuildings essential.

The more modest house "needs to have big enough rooms to accommodate filming, while appearing modest," the notice says. Also, the exterior should be "one of a kind, or have good architectural detail." A top-floor garret room with dormer windows would be icing on the cake.

This house, if it's on a town street, "needs to be on a larger lot, so as not to look crowded," the notice says.

Easy access needed

In either case, said Howard, easy access from paved roads is a must. "Remote sites off dirt roads are not an option for us," she said, "even if they are beautiful."

Another must is large rooms with high ceilings, necessary to accommodate camera and lighting equipment. "We can't over-emphasize this," said her husband, Brian Howard, also a location manager.

The Howards said the company will pay location fees for the properties selected and will also insure them during filming.

The movie, currently titled "Lethal Innocence," will be based on the actual story of two Cambodian orphans placed in foster homes in Windsor, Vt. It will be shown as one of the American Playhouse series carried by the Public Broadcasting Service later in the year.

Besides putting up notices, the Howards are touring the streets and byways themselves. "We post letters if the owners aren't home," said Sara Howard.

Town officials and members of the Lee Chamber of Commerce have embraced the filming project as a welcome boost in the economic recession. Co-producer Nan Bernstein suggested that between \$300,000 and \$400,000 could enter the local economy for the two months or so the crews will be here.

Lee has been chosen as the film's setting because of what the company's managers feel is its New England character. In addition, it's only 4 miles from the Tyringham home of co-producer Bernstein.

Lee board names housing project Clarke Court

LEE — The 16-unit public housing project that the Lee Housing Authority plans to erect on Marble Street will be called Clarke Court after the late William A. Clarke, onetime owner of the land on which it will stand.

The name was chosen last week by the housing authority, which owns the site today and is building the new housing project.

The land is part of a 15-acre tract that already contains Brown Memorial Court, a 48-unit elderly housing project, and Budd House, an eight-bedroom home for clients of the Department of Mental Retardation. These, too, were put up by the housing authority.

Clarke, who died in 1976 at the age of 81, had bought the land in 1950 with his wife, Gertrude Clarke. It was part of the larger purchase of the then-idle Lee Marble Works, which the Clarkes sought to rejuvenate.

In 1972, Mr. Clarke sold the 15-acre parcel to the then chairman of the housing authority, Frank P. Consolati. Within a year, Consolati sold it to the town for the same price he paid for it.

Remembering this yesterday, Consolati said he realized it was a good site and that the chance to acquire it for the town was a one-time-only opportunity.

Lee tower plan tumbles

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

2.17.91

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said yesterday he has been told by Nynex Mobile Communications Inc. of Albany, N.Y., that the company has shelved plans to erect a communications tower on private land next to the Massachusetts Turnpike here.

The tower would have served as an antenna for cellular telephones.

Hodgkins said he had objected to the plans at a meeting in town a month ago and followed this up by talking with some of the company's regional officials in an effort to halt the project.

"Now they've told me they've withdrawn their plans from any consideration," he said.

Existing tower use

Instead, he said, he is urging Nynex Mobile to contact the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to discuss attaching its cellular-telephone relay apparatus to towers already standing on turnpike property.

Representatives of Nynex in Albany could not be reached yesterday to confirm or amend what Hodgkins said.

But Robert W. Birch, chairman of the Lee Planning Board, said a meeting re-

quested by Nynex Mobile with the planners last month has been canceled by the company on grounds its plans were "premature."

At an informational meeting Jan. 16, Hodgkins and Lee Selectman William D. Bean told company representatives the turnpike authority had agreed after a communications-tower controversy in 1989 to upgrade its towers and make them available to competing companies.

As a result, Nynex Mobile should be able to rent space on turnpike towers now, both men said, and not have to resort to building new ones.

Sandra Wesolowski of George Street, one of several householders who would have been within sight of the new tower and who objected to its construction, said she has heard nothing official from Nynex Mobile. Hodgkins' assertion is good news, nonetheless, she said.

Wesolowski, her husband, Paul, and others living near the turnpike had voiced alarm in 1989 when they saw, rising above the trees, the framework of what was to have been a 250-foot communications tower, erected by another cellular-telephone company, Metro Mobile Communications Inc.

They objected to its height, scenic repellence and the danger it represented in case of structural collapse.

With Hodgkins leading the charge, residents and legislators blasted the turnpike authority and Metro Mobile for undertaking the venture without public hearings and without observing other statutory requirements. The upshot was the removal of not only that tower, but three others as well being erected by Metro Mobile along the western end of the turnpike.

"Nynex is looking for a tower because some of the best money in the business is from roaming charges," said Hodgkins, referring to cellular telephoning.

When he conferred with Nynex Mobile representatives after the Jan. 16 meeting, he said he told them he understood the company's desire to compete with Metro Mobile, which has antenna equipment along other stretches of the turnpike, and that he would do what he could to expedite agreements between them and the turnpike authority.

But the agreements would deal with existing towers, not new ones that would tower over residential back yards, he said.

Independent candidate seeks two offices in Lee election

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

2.22.91

LEE — Timothy O. Taylor of 655 Devon Road will run for the offices of town clerk and treasurer at the annual election May 13. He said this week he has nearly finished obtaining signatures on his nomination papers.

He will run as an independent candidate.

Taylor, 42, is the second non-incumbent to put his hat in the election ring. The first was former Selectman Martin H. Deely, who said he plans to run for a selectman's seat this year.

Taylor, currently a member of the town's Board of Public Works, has been a Lee resident for 12 years. He grew up in Pearl River, N.Y., a small town northwest of New York City. He graduated from Pearl River High School and then from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

He was in the Navy for eight years and is still a member of the Navy Reserves with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Taylor moved to the Berkshires in 1978, when he joined GE's ordnance systems. He rose to manager of operational data analysis by the time he left in 1987 to start his own business.

He was a real estate developer for a time and then formed a partnership in an excavation and foundation installation business. He subsequently sold his interest to his partner and now is a business consultant.

"I'm used to dealing with figures and watching the bottom

line," he said.

Taylor said he is taking the independent path to election because it helps to make a distinction between what he calls elected and political offices.

The clerk's and treasurer's positions, he said, should not be political. He said that if he is elected, he would cut back on his consulting work "and take only those jobs I could do outside of the requirements of office."

For many years, the clerk's and treasurer's posts in Lee have been held by the same person and constitute full-time jobs. The last clerk and treasurer was John J. Nagle, who held office for 22 years and retired Jan. 9 because of ill health.

Patricia D. Carlino, who was Nagle's assistant, is performing both tasks — she was named acting treasurer by the Selectmen at the time of Nagle's retirement — until the town election. She is expected to run for the two posts as well.

Taylor and his wife, Linda, are parents of two children, Alastair, 17, a senior at Lee High School, and Anthea, 14, a freshman there.

Taylor is also scoutmaster of Troop 53 in Lenox Dale. In his own Scouting days, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout, "which is something you are forever," he said.

Lee youth group names officers

2/23/91

Eagle

LEE — Directors of the Lee Youth Association have elected Paul Scarpa president for the coming year, succeeding Karen Norton, and Donald Moffatt vice president, succeeding Scarpa.

Also elected was Kathy Naventi-Brown as treasurer, succeeding Patricia Carlino, who completed her term on the board. Karen Guidice was re-elected secretary.

The naming of officers came after elections to the board in which Scarpa, Moffatt, Georgia Massucco and Brian Schaffer were elected for one-year terms; Norton, Michael Armstrong, Susan Cooper, Karen Pleu and Douglas Trombly were elected for two-year terms; and Guidice, Naventi-Brown, Jerry LeProvost, Dee Shepardson and Lynn Simmons were elected for three-year terms.

Joining the board as student representatives will be Brian Baker, a senior at Lee High School, and Michele Kelly, a Lee High junior.

Board Endorses TV Group

LEE -- With the naming of three town residents to membership on Community Television of South Berkshire's board of directors, the selectmen Monday formally endorsed the organization as the town's official arm in locally-produced public-access cable television programming.

The board, however, stopped short of turning over a \$5,000 grant it earlier received from Century Berkshire Cable Corp. that was to go toward developing and producing local programs. That, they ruled, would take the affirmative vote of a town meeting.

Lenox, Great Barrington and Stockbridge have received similar funds from the cable company un-

der am amendment to its 10-year licensing agreement with them and have said they will turn the money over to CTSB. The \$20,000 total is to be used for "equipment to be purchased by the towns for origination of locally produced programs."

Federal Communications Commission requirements for cable TV companies mandate local public access channels. Presently the company offers no such programming generated within its system. Then handful of listings now offered are on tape produced in either Pittsfield or North Adams.

Named as Lee representatives to CTSB, which has 12 seats, were Bruce Kaiden, Stephen Cozzaglio and Samuel Sorrentino.

American Playhouse Film To Be Made Here

LEE -- The Selectmen this week learned from Nan Bernstein of Tyringham that she is co-producing a 90-minute Public Broadcasting Service *American Playhouse* picture, tentatively called "Lethal Innocence," to be made here this spring. The project will add as much as \$400,000 to the local economy and a number of actors and technicians will be hired locally.

Fire Chief Un-Resigns

LEE -- Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll has reconsidered his resignation, tendered to the Selectmen last week. Mr. Driscoll resigned over a flap about a \$45 lunch expense item for the chief and the state fire marshal and others. The Selectmen praised Mr. Driscoll for his work as chief and said the expense discussion was a misunderstanding.

Capital Plan Readied

LEE -- Representatives at the annual meeting here will be presented with a long-range capital plan for major building renovations, heavy equipment purchases, water and sewer installations and landfill expansion. It is estimated that upwards of \$400,000 a year is needed.

Sullivan Graduates

LEE - Capt. Daniel F. Sullivan has graduated from the Army's Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kan. The course is designed to train officers in the skills needed to be effective staff members with the force in the field.

Capt. Sullivan is the son of Francis P. and Lee A. Sullivan of 6 Glenwood Road, Billerica. His wife, Ann, is the daughter of James and Joan Airoidi of 21 Leonard St., Lee.

Lee National's capital increases

Eagle

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

2.20.91

LEE — Despite a drop in assets at the end of 1990, a development caused by the timing of a \$1.5 million deposit and subsequent withdrawal, Lee National Banc Corp.'s capital increased to \$4.1 million for a capital-to-asset ratio of 9.34 percent, up from 8.5 percent at the end of 1989.

William J. Napolitano, president, told the bank's annual meeting last night that assets at the end of 1990 totaled \$44.3 million, down from the 1989 figure of \$44.9 million.

Skewed by deposit

However, he said, the 1989 figure was artificially high because of a \$1.5 million deposit received in December 1989 and then withdrawn in January 1990.

Napolitano said that the capital of the bank, up \$313,000 over 1989, is at the highest level in its 156-year history and that the 9.34 percent capital-to-asset ratio is well above the 6 percent established as the threshold level by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Net profit after taxes, he said, was \$440,781, a figure that is about 21 percent lower than last year. Profit was off, he said, because the bank transferred \$100,000 to its loan loss reserves, bringing them to \$477,000. That increase, along with the extra cost of insuring deposits and rising costs in other areas, he said, reduced net profit by \$120,000.

Because of the economic slowdown, he said, loan demand was approximately \$1 million off from 1989, with Lee National writing a total of \$30.1 million in

The bank, Napolitano said, is in its strongest liquidity position in years, with more than \$11 million to lend.

loans.

The bank, Napolitano said, is in the strongest liquidity position it has had in years, with more than \$11 million to lend. It has about 67 percent of its loan portfolio in real estate and consumer loans, and 32 percent in commercial loans, a ratio he described as "a good mix for us."

He said that the bank can write commercial loans up to \$600,000 but that the more typical loans are in the \$50,000 to \$250,000 range.

As part of its loan program, Napolitano said, the bank participates in a Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency program for first-time home buyers allowing them to buy houses for 5 percent down.

Deposits for the year, he said, rose by just over \$600,000 after adjusting for the \$1.5 million deposit/withdrawal.

\$5.80 per share

Cash dividends paid to 70 shareholders totaled \$128,000, or \$5.80 per share, he said.

He also reported that authorities approved the bank's proposal to form a holding company last July. The holding company, he said, allows the bank to offer additional services. However, he said, because of the uncertain economy, it has not undertaken any new directions.

Lee National has four offices, two of them in Lee, one in Otis and one in Great Barrington.

Area Sports

Eagle

2.21.91

Sons of Italy honors Cinella

Tom Cinella, who coached the Lee High girls' basketball team to its second straight Division 3 state championship last season, has been named coach of the year by the sports commission of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Order Sons of Italy in America.

Cinella has been invited to serve as guest speaker at a March 9 banquet in Woburn where 41 athletes of Italian heritage are scheduled to be honored.

Lee Kiwanis adds music scholarship

LEE — The Lee Kiwanis Club is introducing a new scholarship, in addition to the three it already gives annually. It will be a music scholarship named in memory of Francis Fanning, who died Oct. 19, 1989.

He was a longtime Kiwanis member and had been town clerk, treasurer and assessor in Lee until retiring in 1968.

The scholarship will be for \$150 and will go to a Lee student in 7th grade or above to help pay for instruction in playing a musical instrument.

The application deadline is May 1. Recipients will be encouraged to reapply in subsequent years, according to John F. Cysz, a member of the scholarship committee.

The Fanning scholarship will be in addition to three college scholarships awarded annually to graduating seniors at Lee High School or Lee students graduating from St. Joseph's High School in Pittsfield.

Cysz said the latter have been increased so that the four-year scholarship now offers \$600 a year for four years to its recipient instead of \$500; the two-year scholarship offers \$500 a year for two years, up from \$250; and the one-year scholarship goes from \$500 to \$600.

Eagle 2/22/91

Will delays decision on factory site until November

By Gerald B. O'Connor

Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Whether E.C.H. Will Manufacturing Corp. remains in Lee or builds a new plant elsewhere in Berkshire County will be decided at the company's annual board of directors meeting in November, the company's executive vice president, John D. Eisenhour, said yesterday.

While this postpones site selection to a date later than the company announced a year ago, it does include a once-rejected Lee site among those that might be considered.

But wherever the company builds its new plant, it is com-

mitted to Berkshire County because of the skills of its work and sales forces, Eisenhour said in an interview yesterday.

In general, he painted a cautiously upbeat picture of the company's condition at a time when the nation's economy is in a slump.

Owners committed

"The economy is not as robust as we would like to see it," Eisenhour said, "but our new owners are committed to this operation and recognize they have to be willing to make an investment to make it work."

And invest they have, he said.

The new owner is E.C.H. Will's namesake parent company, headquartered in Hamburg, Germany, which bought the former Clark-Alken Matik Inc. in November 1989. At the time, managers said the company would begin a search for 15 to 20 acres as a site for a new state-of-the-art plant of 75,000 to 100,000 square feet.

But by the following March, site selection was put on hold for a year as the company cut its work force because of a softening market.

Now, almost a year later, the number of employees at the plant on Water Street here is 117, up by

Will delays picking factory site

■ WILL, from C1

for example, can occupy anywhere from nine months to a year. Another was the time the company itself should spend re-viewing sites.

Analyzing sites

In this regard, a design company in Sheboygan, Wis., where Will has another plant, has been hired to analyze the various Berkshire County sites, Eisenhour said. "To my untutored eye, they all look equally acceptable," he said, "but a design specialist I'm sure will see any number of differences."

The number of sites under consideration is down to seven or eight, he explained, and these extend from the former Adams Print Works site in the northern part of the county to Lee in South Berkshire.

And in Lee, a site that may be back in contention is on property along Route 102 in the southern section of town where the Community Development Corp. would

like to establish an industrial park.

As recently as last fall, Eisenhour said, the site was removed from consideration because the town did not yet own it and had no prospect of acquiring it in time to meet the company's 1991 deadline.

But now that the deadline has been put off for at least a year, and the Lee Selectmen have authorized the CIDC to begin the taking of the tract's key access parcel, he said, "clearly, it could be open for consideration again."

Meanwhile, he added, gesturing to the company's present building and grounds off Water Street, "one of the sites is the one right here."

When E.C.H. Will acquired Clark-Alken Matik a year and a half ago, it acquired the latter's assets but not the real estate, which it leases from owner Robert A. Foiste of West Hartford, Conn., a principal in the Matik operation.

Foiste and a landholding com-

pany he has formed, Tynningham Ridge Inc., own some 200 acres south of Water Street, or Route 20, where the plant stands, and Will may be able to buy some of it.

Staying in county

It is important to remain in Berkshire County, Eisenhour said. "After a number of years, you develop a level of expertise that is hard to replace. If you lose it, it takes a long time to build it back up again."

He cautioned against reading too much into the slight upturn in employee numbers in the past year. He said the company tries to maintain a stable work force and does it by adding overtime hours in peak demand periods and cutting overtime when demand is slack.

"We flex the work weeks instead of the work force," he said. "We don't like to be in a situation where we have to lay off people. Sometimes you have to. But we try our damndest to avoid it."

Fire chief in Lee rescinds his letter of resignation

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll, who abruptly resigned as chief last week because of the Selectmen's refusal a week earlier to pay a \$45 luncheon bill, took back his resignation last night.

"After due consideration," he wrote in a short letter to the Selectmen, "I ask that you rescind my letter of resignation." He also added thanks for the Selectmen's "letter of support."

On a motion by William D. Bean, the Selectmen had sent Driscoll their own letter a week

ago informing him they had refused to accept his resignation and asking him to reconsider. They also deplored the misunderstanding that led to the resignation and lauded him for his work as chief.

Bean also gave voice at the time to an emotional defense of the chief. He told his two colleagues, Diane P. Roosa and the chairman, Joseph F. Dupont, that Driscoll was doing an excellent job and that what he wanted was respect.

Roosa and Dupont said they had not been disrespectful.

What had happened was that Driscoll had paid \$45 for a luncheon for himself, state Fire Marshal Joseph A. O'Keefe, Deputy Fire Chief Alan Sparks and an aide to O'Keefe at Sullivan's Station restaurant, then had submitted the bill to the Selectmen. It was to be paid from his own expense account, which, according to Bean, he cleared with the town accountant.

The four men had discussed fuel-storage requirements and permits, Driscoll said, so it was, in effect, a business luncheon.

When the Selectmen received the bill, the first thing they saw was O'Keefe's name, and they held up payment on grounds that O'Keefe was not here at the town's invitation but had come on his own.

Let him pay for his own lunch, they intimated.

The decision was reported in the newspapers, and Driscoll, taking it as a rebuff, penned his resignation letter.

three from the 114 of a year ago, and the company is waiting for what it hopes will be new orders that will give it position in the world marketplace.

Will is one of the leading world manufacturers of sheeters — machines that cut paper into sheets of various sizes in preparation for finish work, whether it be as stationery, typewriter paper or bubble-gum cards. The Lee works concentrates mainly on foil-sized sheeters, the larger of two kinds. The smaller are "cut-size" sheeters.

Historically, the paper-machinery business has been subject to what Eisenhour said a

friend calls a hog cycle — a series of sharp ups and downs that lag behind the general economy by a year or so.

Manufacturers in low periods look for stability, and foreign markets appear to offer that stability now, he said. "There is an awful lot of growth in the former communist-bloc countries," he said, "just within Germany, for example, there is substantial demand from the former East Germany just to bring it level with West Germany."

Meanwhile, he continued, the parent company has invested substantially in retooling the Lee plant, which at the time of Will's

acquisition housed a considerable amount of aged and worn machinery.

Eisenhour declined to put a dollar figure on the retooling investment — Will is a privately owned company, he observed — but he said it has been "very substantial" and is continuing through 1991.

The expectation of a year ago that ground might be broken for a new building sometime this year probably wasn't realistic for several reasons, he said. One was the time needed to complete the governmental site-approval process, the environmental reviews,

WILL, continued on C2

Lee launching plastics recycling

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — This town will begin its first plastics-recycling program next Friday, Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scoloro said yesterday.

He and Maynard Clemons, chairman of the town's Recycling Committee, agreed on the date after the Selectmen at the beginning of the week approved a plan

under which a New Marlboro waste hauler, Joseph Mallory, will collect the plastic without charge to the town and sell it to a recycling company.

"Joe will make some money and Lee will save space in the landfill," said Clemons after the Selectmen had acted.

Scoloro said he could not guess how much space will be saved at the landfill, but he ob-

served that the town is already saving an estimated 70 to 80 cubic yards of space there each week through the present recycling of paper, bottles and cans.

"That's pretty close to 20 percent of what our weekly volume of rubbish was before recycling began" a little more than a year ago, he said.

Reducing the trash volume will extend the landfill's life that much longer, he said.

The town's landfill off Woodland Road near October Mountain, which has been in use since the mid-1960s, has two to three years' more life, Scoloro said. It was filling so rapidly by the early 1980s that the town shut off commercial and industrial rubbish in 1985 and limited burial to household refuse only.

When plastics recycling begins Friday, Mallory will park a 15-cubic-yard dumpster inside the landfill gate to accept plastic containers that are recyclable. Residents who hire commercial haulers to take away their rubbish will be asked to put recyclable plastic in reusable containers at the curbside.

Clemons and Scoloro said there will be an education campaign as there was before the recycling of paper, glass and metal began last year.

Some unacceptable

A circular prepared by Mallory lists as recyclable plastic containers "that contain liquids we drink, eat, cook with, clean with or wash with." The bottles and jugs, he says, will have stamps on the bottoms consisting of the three-arrow recycling logo enclosing numbers 1, 2, 3 or 5.

The first covers PETE plastic, the second HDPE, the third PVC and the last PP. Each is an acronym for a combination of ingredients that make up that particular plastic, or polymer. PVC, for example, is polyvinyl chloride.

Unacceptable, says Mallory, are containers that held poisons and medical accessories like intravenous fluids, hoses, syringes, and

pills or capsules. Also unacceptable are bottles and jugs that held antifreeze, motor oil and lubricants as well as non-bottle plastics like polyethylene bags, plastic toys, six-pack rings, food wraps, ice cream and yogurt containers, and foam.

Before collection, recyclable plastic containers should have their caps removed and discarded, should be rinsed thoroughly and crushed "as much as possible," Mallory says.

Eventually, the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield, which receives recycled paper, metal and glass from Berkshire and other Western Massachusetts counties, will add plastic, said Clemons. But until then, Mallory's collection will help the town significantly, he said.

Selectmen take action to clear way for construction of Lee housing

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen have agreed to modify an inspection-fee waiver that will clear one of the final hurdles to construction of a \$1.5 million publicly funded affordable-housing project on Marble Street, possibly beginning this spring.

The project, to contain 16 apartment units in eight duplex buildings, has been on the drawing boards in one way or another since 1985. It has encountered opposition from both neighbors and town officials, the latter contending it violated a moratorium imposed in 1987 on construction of multifamily projects that would generate more than 2,000 gallons of sewage a day.

The Superior Court eventually upheld the project as necessary despite the moratorium.

Payment for inspectors

The inspection-fee modification will permit the Lee Housing Authority to pay the various inspectors who must review the plans and installations the shares of the inspection fees that make up their wages. The inspectors are part-time employees.

The Board of Selectmen in 1986 had waived the fees in their entirety, which is not uncommon on publicly funded projects. But the

town's present building inspector, Robert W. Lester, told the project developer that he relies on a portion of the building-inspection fees for his income and that he wouldn't do the inspections for nothing.

The developer is the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority. Kathleen Byrnes, one of its two co-executive directors, asked for the waiver modification so that inspections can begin, a building permit be issued, the inspectors paid and the project advertised for bid.

She and Francis D. Foley Jr., chairman of the Lee Housing Authority, estimated that advertisements can be published in March and bids received perhaps in April or May. After that, they guessed, it could be 12 to 15 months to completion.

The project, which has weathered opposition and court appeals, "now seems to be pretty much on track," said Foley yesterday.

If so, it will presumably unlock additional money granted by the state to install new storm drains in the area. Storm runoff from the present site has generated complaints from abutters and a decision to correct it at the time new housing is built.

The housing authority is the owner of the site and will manage the apartment units once they are completed.

The inspection-fee obstacle may not have been foreseen at the time the then Board of Selectmen approved the waiver in 1986. The inspector was paid a

salary then, and fees were not large. But the following year, the town adopted its current system, in part because other towns had done so and in part to generate additional revenue to offset the restrictions imposed by tax-limiting laws. Fees were increased as a result.

So now building inspections are calculated by the square foot instead of by the dollar value of the project, and the fees for building, wiring and other inspections are split in various ways with the inspectors themselves. Lester, for example, receives a base salary of \$3,600 plus half of any inspection fees up to a maximum of \$8,000.

The town keeps the other half and all of any additional fees. Building-inspection fees since July 1, 1990, come to \$7,163, according to town records.

Lester Tuesday night estimated his share of the building-inspection fee for the housing project at \$1,400.

The project will be paid for with state funds administered by the Office of Communities and Economic Development.

Story exaggerates lawyers' role

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Steve Moore's story about the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling in Gage vs. the town of Egremont [Eagle, Feb. 21] contains errors of fact so serious that I would like them corrected as quickly as possible.

The story gives me the credit for representing the town of Egremont in this matter. Flattering as that is, it's not true.

The town of Egremont was represented in the Land Court appeal by its able town counsel, Dennis J. Downing. He was joined in the appeal of that decision, which the Supreme Judicial Court took for direct review by an accomplished and talented land use attorney from Springfield, Bart J. Gordon, who is no stranger to this county.

The Board of Selectmen deserve a lot of credit for standing behind the Planning Board and the town's bylaw and providing the funds to appeal the Land Court decision.

The role of the Regional Planning Commission was that of *amicus curiae* — friend of the court. Because the commission saw the threat to the bylaws of a number of other towns, it sponsored the brief prepared by F. Sydney Smithers IV and me. It is unfortunate that the story has the tail wagging the dog. Interviews with town officials and any of the lawyers involved would have prevented the exaggeration of our role and the failure to mention

the real heavy hitters in this event.

The extremely successful result of this decision is that Egremont and the 13 other towns with similar bylaws know that a single district bylaw which allows residential uses by right and other named uses by special permit does not violate the provisions of the state zoning enabling act. The other important aspect of the decision is the court's affirmation of the standards for granting special permits set forth in the Egremont bylaw. Most of the other towns have similar standards which were first drafted by Charles Kusik, the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission's consultant for many years. He will be pleased, but not surprised to know that the Supreme Judicial Court finds them adequate.

SARAH H. BELL

Lee

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Congressman's Silvio Conte's career accomplishments [Eagle, Feb. 10] could have included his being the original Republican co-sponsor of the nuclear weapons freeze resolution and his being one of three House Republicans to vote against the Mideast war.

With his peace vote Silvio Conte cast his own — and finest — memorial.

TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee

Unconditionals

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The way to save the troops is with an unconditional cease-fire, followed by unconditional negotiations aimed at getting Iraq out of Kuwait.

TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee

Our Berkshires



A Lee schoolmaster

By Gerard Chapman

STOCKBRIDGE

A PROMINENT citizen of Lee a century and more ago was Alexander Hyde, a deacon of the Congregational Church, which his father, the Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde, served as minister for 40 years. Although the father was of the old, strict Calvinist school of theology, the son had little taste for the endless, abstruse doctrinal discussions that characterized the father's era.

Alexander, born Sept. 25, 1814, was one of 11 children — two girls and nine boys — and the youngest of the four boys who were students at Williams College. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary scholastic society, and was graduated in 1834.

After a year or two of teaching elsewhere he returned to Lee, having inherited the family mansion upon the death of his father in 1833. It still stands on West Park Street just uphill from the railroad track and today displays the sign Aardenberg Antiques.

* * *

It was in that homestead that Alexander Hyde conducted for 30 years a school for boys of which he was both proprietor and teacher. Not long after entering upon this enterprise, he married on Oct. 1, 1839, Cornelia Hull, daughter of Lt. Gov. George Hull of New Marlboro. They became the parents of nine children.

His relations to his students were often those of a father and mentor, and many of them went on to college, becoming in later life prominent citizens of their communities. Among his students were minorities, such as Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Africans and American Indians. Of the latter, he took one into his own family circle.

After the Army had subdued warlike Indians of the Great Plains of the American West in the middle 1870s, it placed the more amenable Indians in the Hampton Institute in Virginia to learn the white man's ways. That institute, in its turn, sent 13 of its charges to Berkshire County, where Alexander Hyde, a trustee for 10 years, placed them with area farmers to learn agriculture. The one he took into his own home was a Kiowa named Tsadeltah (White Goose), and when the youth died of tuberculosis in 1839, Hyde interred him in the family plot in Fairmont Cemetery and erected a stone over the grave.

* * *

As was often the case, the Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde supplemented his income by farming, and the son Alexander developed a lifelong interest in agriculture. He contributed articles on the subject to newspapers, and for years wrote a weekly column in the New York Times. He delivered a series of 12 lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston which were printed in the Springfield Republican and then collected into a book. Although Hyde brought the scientific advances in agriculture to the attention of farmers, he himself was not a successful dirt farmer.

Hyde's other consuming interest was education. He served for years on the school committee in Lee, and in the era following the Civil War supported the education of freedmen, notably at Hampton Institute. So devoted was Hyde to education in Lee that the principal of the high school averred that he was the committee, and the secretary of the state board of education regarded him as one of the three best school committeemen in the state.

Mr. Hyde was for two years the proprietor of the Valley Gleaner, the weekly newspaper in Lee (now defunct), and, in addition to the publication of his Lowell Institute Lectures, enjoyed some success as an editor, having compiled "Africa and its Explorers" and "The Frozen Zone." He wrote the centennial history of Lee. He was the first president of the Berkshire Historical and Scientific Society and contributed to its publications a treatise on the "Social Life and Customs of the Early Citizens of Berkshire."

* * *

In a sketch of his life as an alumnus of Williams College, he is said to have felt that his having spent 30 years in his schoolroom "had prevented his making the most of himself," meaning, possibly, that he had not amassed much wealth. But his qualities had brought him to the attention of influential persons, and two years before his death he was offered the presidency of the Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst, "which he deemed it inexpedient to accept."

In the fall of 1880 he was elected to the state Legislature, but not long after he was stricken by a heart attack on the steps of the Statehouse and died on Jan. 11, 1881.

Of him, E.W.B. Canning, a fellow schoolmaster in Stockbridge and a classmate at Williams, said in a memorial address, "Take him all in all, he was a man whom to know was a privilege, to know intimately a blessing, to lose, a calamity."

Although the current telephone directory does not list any person named Hyde in Lee, the name is not forgotten there, as the facility for housing the elderly located between Railroad and Main Streets is named Hyde Place.

Barns burn in Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee; 3 pets perish

Eagle By Gerald B. O'Connor 3.2.91
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Emile Boule, 91, of 1024 Holmes Road, watched sadly yesterday morning as a tractor pulled his two pet Jersey cows from the stable where they had died in an early morning fire behind his home.

He had raised them from calfhood, had milked them and cared for them as adult cows, and in the last few years had kept them as pets, family members said.

The fire, which destroyed a sturdy but antique barn on his property, was one of three fires that destroyed or partly destroyed three barns in three adjacent communities in a three-hour span early yesterday.

Investigators were being called in. But officials did not speculate whether the fires were arson or were linked.

The first fire was reported at 12:55 a.m. in Lenox where a two-story barn used as a garage behind Helen Hainsworth's house at 161 Housatonic St. was destroyed. With it, Hainsworth

'I hadn't been in bed more than 10 minutes when I heard a bang! I looked out and the barn just seemed to be enveloped.'

and her son, Robert, lost two automobiles, lawn and gardening equipment and an array of household possessions.

The second fire was the one that burned Emile Boule's barn at the corner of Holmes Road and East Street in Pittsfield, reported to the city Fire Department at 1:37 a.m.

The third was in a vacant barn on Columbia Street in Lee, reported by neighbors at 3:40 a.m. Lee Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll said the barn was gutted and part of its roof destroyed but that damage was otherwise limited because the barn was virtually empty.

In Lenox, Fire Chief John C. Stringer said four engines responded to the Hainsworth fire and that he was planning to contact Trooper Michael Mazza of the state police to join the investigation. Mazza is currently assigned to the state fire marshal's office.

Stringer said early indications are that the fire started in the wall of the garage in front of Helen Hainsworth's car, which she had parked there less than an hour earlier.

Hainsworth said she had returned from work shortly after midnight, had parked her car, a 1988 Pontiac Grand Am, in the garage, or barn, and had

FIRES, continued on B6

Lee vs. Lenox while Braves travel

■ GIRLS, from D1 3.5.91
the Boys [and Girls] Club," Lafave said.

"My kids feel they shoot well at Monument," Cinella added.

The two coaches downplayed the intensity between the traditional rivals. Cinella pointed out that Lenox starting forward and Berkshire County leading scorer Samantha Herrick (24.5 ppg.) and Lee's Katie Cinella and Michele Naventi were roommates during Bay State Games competition last summer.

"A lot of the kids work together," Tom Cinella said. "They're friendly with each other."

Still, that's away from the court. And all bets are certainly off tomorrow night.

Frontier, the No. 2 seed and

No. 3 Ware are in the other Division 3 semifinal contest. The championship game is Saturday (10:45 a.m.) at the Springfield Civic Center.

Taonic vs. South Hadley

It's been one big game after another for the No. 3 Braves. Taonic (16.5) clinched the Northern Division crown on Feb. 18 in a tight 45-43 win over Hoosac. City rival Pittsfield then handed Taonic a close 49-47 defeat in the regular season finale.

Then came an emotional 61-56 defeat to Lee in the Berkshire County championship game. That was followed by the Braves' 72-57 win against Hampshire Regional in a Western Mass. quarterfinal contest on Saturday.

Taonic coach Joe Racicot certainly has to be pleased with the offensive balance the team has shown late in the season. Early in the year the scoring burden fell on juniors Jamie Murphy, Kelly Daigneault and Tammy Tobin.

But freshman guard Mickie Turner has sizzled offensively late in the year while forwards Dana Hoskeer and Terry Pratt have picked up their offensive production significantly.

Turner had a season-high 26 points against Hampshire and popped in 16 against Lee in the county title game. Turner also had 17 in the finale against Pittsfield.

South Hadley (17-3) was seeded second in the field and along with Southwick drew a first-round bye in the six-team field.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Two pet cows and a dog died in this barn owned by Emile Boule, 91, on outer Holmes Road in Pittsfield. Discussing the loss, from left, are Firefighter Christopher Dorr, Fire

Lt. Ronald Mazzeo Jr., Arthur Frederick Jr., Boule's grandnephew, and Fire Lt. Wesley Olds. Barns also burned in Lenox and Lee the same night.

Three barns burn during night

■ FIRES, from A1 3.2.91
"puttered around" in the house for a while before going to bed. For much of that time, she said, she could see the garage.

"I hadn't been in bed more than 10 minutes when I heard a bang! bang! — the neighbors heard it, too — and I looked out and the barn just seemed to be enveloped. It was like the whole thing was in flames."

She said she could not guess what caused the two bangs.

For a time, she and her son, Robert, who had retired earlier, stood outdoors until firefighters said it was safe for them to go back inside. Robert Hainsworth's car, a 1973 Plymouth, which was parked just outside the garage, was destroyed as well — testimony, said Stringer, to the heat and reach of the flames.

A lawnmower, a gas grill and other such equipment, along with household items and keepsakes, such as children's sleds, stored in the building, were also lost.

When the Boule barn burned in Pittsfield, it contained a wagon and a considerable amount of hay. It was also the home for the family dog, Laddie, who was tied at night so that he could run in and out. As did the cows, Laddie died in the fire.

The two cows, which were dry, were kept in a cement-walled stable underneath the barn. The stable's outside door was latched.

Intense heat

Fire Lt. Gerard Miller, who was in charge of the firefighting crew at the scene, said the flames were

so hot that neither he nor others could get close enough to the barn to release the livestock.

"The heat was so intense it was cracking the window glass on the house, which was 30 feet away," he said. "The guys really did a good job keeping that fire from spreading."

Boule's sister, Henrietta Frederick, called in the alarm. The family was wakened by the barking of the dog, firefighters said.

Boule's nephew John Frederick, a retired Pittsfield fire captain, said the cows clearly died from asphyxiation.

A grandnephew, Arthur Frederick Jr., said his uncle had tried to save Laddie, a spaniel cross, but Laddie ran back into the barn and died.

The cows "were just pets now," said John Frederick. "They weren't milking any more." Gesturing toward the meadow and pasture that make up the small 13-acre farm south of Chapman's Corner, he said his uncle had "cut all the grass for them with a scythe and wheeled it into the barn" on a wheelbarrow.

Although they were pets, the cows did not have names, Frederick said.

A neighbor, Philip J. Rennie, drove his tractor up to the Boule farm yesterday morning. With the backhoe attached to it, he dug a deep hole in the pasture and then pulled each of the cows into it and filled it in, burying them under a stand of black cherry trees where they once grazed.

Miller and the 12 firefighters in his charge, who came from the Holmes Road fire station with two engines, a ladder and a rescue truck, returned to the station at sunup. A three-man standby crew from West Pittsfield — Lieutenants Wesley Olds and Ronald Mazzeo Jr. and firefighter Christopher Dorr — took their places to guard against flare-ups later in the morning.

John Frederick said he believes the main barn, of post-and-beam framework, was nearly 200 years old. An attached ell was burned also.

Deputy Fire Chief Ronald E. Mazzeo and Police Detective Robert Beals, who conduct arson investigations in Pittsfield and have had their hands full in the past year with a string of more than 25 deliberately set fires, are investigating this one. Mazzeo said yesterday there was nothing yet to report.

In Lee, Chief Driscoll said he planned to contact the fire marshal's office to investigate the Columbia Street fire. The barn that burned, across the street from the entrance to Kimberly-Clark Corp.'s Columbia Mill, was

owned by a Dalton firm named J.A. Realty, he said, and was unused. It was an old barn, he added, empty for the last few years.

A house that was on the same property was removed several years ago, he said.

Four fire engines from the Lee Fire Department were at the scene for almost two hours, returning to service at 5:40 a.m. The Lenox Dale Fire Department stood by for Lee during that time, Driscoll said.

Name that war 3.4.91

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Why did the media call this the "Persian Gulf War"? Except for oil spills and sea mines, the war wasn't in the gulf.

The killing fields were in Iraq, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Mindless mimicking probably precludes a more accurate name — the Mideast war.

TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee

44.

DPW board backs funds for study of co-composting to reduce trash

Eagle By Gerald B. O'Connor 2.28.91
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — This town's Board of Public Works wants to determine if co-composting, as its advocates maintain, will dramatically lengthen the life of Lee's dwindling landfill.

To this end, the board Monday night voted to seek an appropriation of \$4,000 at the annual town meeting in May as Lee's share of a feasibility study to be undertaken later this year by the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

A request to this effect will be submitted to the Selectmen for inclusion on the town meeting warrant.

Lee is not a member of the 11-town district, so it will have to take part in the study by virtue of an appropriation. Member towns will take part through their annual \$3-per-capita membership fees.

The management district's chairman, David Steindler of

Sheffield, said bids on the study will be sought "as soon as possible." Staff members of the state Department of Environmental Protection, he said, are helping the district phrase the questions the study will answer and the goals it will achieve.

Lee, which will begin the voluntary recycling of plastics Friday, is looking for as many ways as it can to save landfill space. Department of Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo and Recycling Committee Chairman Maynard Clemons say the landfill's remaining operating life is no more than two or three years.

Co-composting, its advocates maintain, can divert large volumes of rubbish from the waste stream and turn it into a usable organic material suitable as mulch or ground cover, as a growing medium for plants and the like.

Steindler said there is no rule of thumb as to how much solid

waste can be diverted from landfills or incinerators by a combination of recycling and co-composting. Companies that make and operate composting facilities say it can be as much as 80 percent to 90 percent, but Steindler said it would depend on the "waste stream" and what's in it.

The coming study would have three objectives: identifying what wastes would be available, identifying the "appropriate technology" for the job, and specifying site requirements and state regulations.

A wide variety of household and industrial refuse can be converted into organic matter through the co-composting process, knowledgeable people say.

"Everything in your trash can," is the way one Board of Public Works member, David Parker, put it to a questioner Monday night. This would embrace paper, cloth, food waste and related material that can't be recycled.

It also would include — and this is where the "co" in co-composting enters the picture — industrial and sewage sludge, and sludge from septic tanks.

But it would not — or should not — include light bulbs, batteries, television sets and other non-degradable material, particularly the kind that contains contaminants, like heavy metals.

Lee Selectmen have yet to act on wage hike for town workers

LEE — The Lee Employees Association and the Selectmen reached agreement on a 3 percent wage increase nearly seven weeks ago, but the Selectmen have yet to sign the contract.

Two of them, Diane P. Roosa and William D. Bean, said Monday night they would sign it if it is brought to next Monday's Selectmen's meeting.

The chairman, Joseph F. Dupont, who has the contract documents, would rather not. He says the town meeting should decide whether it wants to fund the agreement, which was reached, he says, before incoming Gov. William F. Weld announced a planned reduction in local aid of some \$270 million for the coming year.

This is going to impose hardships on Lee and towns across the state, Dupont said. "I have reservations if we can afford it," he added.

'Package' sought

If the Selectmen sign the contract, he said, time will be taken up at the annual town meeting in May "fighting over budgets." Best let the town meeting representatives decide, he suggested, by voting on a "package" that would lump the increases together as a single item.

The amount under consideration is in the neighborhood of

\$25,000. There are 23 employees in the association, which represents water and sewer department workers, Board of Health employees, secretaries, switchboard operators, sanitarians, and statutory office holders like the town clerk, town treasurer and tax collector.

When Dupont proposed shifting the decision to the town meeting representatives a week ago, Roosa and Bean said that the Selectmen, having negotiated the

contract, should complete it by signing it. To do otherwise would amount to bad-faith bargaining, they suggested.

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino, who represented the employees' association at the bargaining table, asked the status of the contract Monday night.

"I'll move we sign it if you bring it in next week," said Roosa.

"I'll second it," said Bean.

The contract is for one year.

Berkshire teams head : Top-seeds Lee, Lenox, Taconic to play

Eagle By Brian Sullivan 3.5.91
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee girls' basketball coach Tom Cinella knows what strategy he wants against Lenox in tomorrow night's Western Mass. Division 3 semifinal contest at Monument Mountain at 7. Lenox coach Fred Lafave knows what he wants to do against Lee. And both coaches have an idea about what the other will try to do.

Confused yet? If you are, don't worry. It's only the seventh meeting between the two Berkshire County rivals in the past two seasons and everyone has a right to be a little mixed up.

On a less hectic storyline, the Taconic girls' team will play at Cathedral tonight at 6 against South Hadley in the Division 2 semifinals. The second game of that Division 2 doubleheader will pit top-seed Southwick (17-3) against No. 4 Palmer (17-2) at 7:45.

Lee vs. Lenox

The Wildcats have won the past two state Division 3 titles and are aiming for a third. Lee (21-0) is the No. 1 seed in the Western Mass. Division 3 tournament and has an overall 29-game win streak riding over parts of two years. Lenox is the No. 4 seed in the tournament and has a 16-4

season mark.

The recent history for the two teams in head-to-head competition looks like this: Lee defeated Lenox in a preseason tournament at the beginning of the 1989-90 season. But the Millionaires went on to win the two league games played last year. Lee, however, defeated Lenox in the championship game of the Western Mass. tournament.

This year, Lee won both league meetings leading into tomorrow's game. The Wildcats won 55-29 on Jan. 21 and triumphed again 58-43 on Feb. 11.

"We're not overworried or overconfident," Lee's Tom Cinella said about the third meeting between the two clubs this year. "We're bringing back a veteran team from last year's Western Mass. championship game [against Lenox]."

"Lee's tough to beat," Lenox's Lafave said. "I think we know, though. But we have to execute our game plan. Lee is going to want to press the ball and run while we want a halfcourt game."

Both coaches are pleased not to be traveling out of the area for their game. But Lafave was hoping that the contest would draw strongly enough to have considered a larger gymnasium.

"I would have been much happier at Taconic or

GIRLS, continued on D2

PHS boys, Lee girls win county hoop titles

Wildcats hold off Taconic bid, 61-56

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff
2.27.91

LEE — The Lee High girls' basketball team took Taconic's best shot last night before coming away with a thrilling 61-56 victory that earned the Wildcats their first Berkshire County championship. Senior center Shannon Driscoll led the winners with a game-high 23 points.

Girls' Basketball

Lee, which won this year's Southern Division and has claimed the past two Division 3 state titles, improved its season record to 20-0 and its overall win streak to 28. Northern Division champion Taconic is now 14-6.

"Don't let anyone tell you that this wasn't a big one," said Lee coach Tom Cinella, whose club had been denied a county title despite state crowns it had earned the past two years.

The Lee players, especially the seniors, were consumed by the quest for a Berkshire County crown. Taconic, meanwhile, played "possessed," according to junior forward Jamie Murphy. And the intensity that spilled onto the court provided a packed house of about 800 with an emotionally charged contest that saw both teams refuse to concede much on the hardwood.

"The seniors wanted the county title," said Lee's Jessie McManmon, one of several Wildcat basketball players who have also helped Lee win two of the last three county soccer championships. "We wanted it bad."

So did the Taconic team. "We wanted to win so badly," said Murphy, who shared team-high scoring honors with Mickie Turner with 16 points. "We played just an unbelievable game. Lee likes to run the court and so do we. I think we're the only team [in the county] that can run with them."

Not like last game

The crisply played contest was a far cry from the sloppy 71-57 win that Lee scored at Taconic on Jan. 24. The Wildcats had led by almost 30 points that evening. But it was a different Taconic team that showed up in Lee last night — one that was after a win, not just respect.

"No doubt, it was an exceptional effort by all of our kids," Taconic coach Joe Racicot said. "We seemed to have ironed out some rough edges from the last time we played Lee."

Lee coach Cinella addressed the senior leadership of McManmon and Driscoll, who made key plays down the stretch. Racicot, meanwhile, has nary a senior among his

GIRLS, continued on D6



Photo by Mark Mitchell
Lee's Jessie McManmon splits Taconic defenders Terry Pratt, left, and Mickie Turner for a jump shot last night at the Lee gymnasium. McManmon scored 16 points to help the Wildcats to victory.



Photo by Mark Mitchell

It was celebration time for the Lee High girls' basketball team last night at the Lee gymnasium. The Wildcats defeated Taconic 61-56 to win their first Berkshire County basketball crown. From left, going around the circle, the celebration includes Jessie McManmon, Katie Cinella, Jen Finnegan (12), Lee Brighenti (30), Michele Naventi (20), Dina Souza and A.J. Skowron.

Lee girls win title

■ GIRLS, from D1 2.27.91

top six players.

"We answered some questions tonight about whether we could win the close ones," Cinella said. "Taconic's a quality team, though."

Taconic ties it

The Wildcats led 31-28 at half-time and opened up a five-point margin when Driscoll converted an offensive rebound. Taconic's Dana Hoskeer hit for a deuce and Murphy made the first of two free throws to cut the lead to two. Terry Pratt then snared Murphy's missed second free throw and scored to knot the game at 33-33.

The Braves took their biggest lead of the second half at 39-36 with 10:40 remaining when Tammy Tobin drilled a trifecta. Driscoll, however, made good on a three-point play that tied the game at 39.

The Wildcats' McManmon began to take charge at this point, scoring 12 of her 16 points in the final nine minutes. McManmon hit a jumper in the lane to snap a 41-41 tie and made it a four-point lead when she stole the Taconic inbound pass and dropped in a layup.

Tobin cut the lead to one on another three-point basket, but McManmon exploited the Braves' defense for a pair of baseline drives that made the score 49-44.

"We just began swinging the ball [around the perimeter] more quickly," McManmon said. "Taconic did a much better job guarding the inside post and collapsing [in the lane] in the first half."

Lee point guard Kate Cinella hit a three-point basket with 5:09 remaining to increase the lead to 52-44. Taconic's Turner and Murphy each converted twice at the foul line to cut the lead to 52-48. Lee answered with a Jen Finnegan foul shot and a turnaround bank shot by McManmon for a 55-48 lead.

The last Taconic thrust came when Murphy hit a long three-pointer with 3:30 left to cut the deficit to 55-51. But Katie Cinella found Driscoll inside for a pair of baskets and McManmon scored off a turnover to give the Wildcats a 61-51 lead with about one minute to go.

Lee had opened a 21-11 lead in the first half only to see the Braves rally to cut the lead to three at the half.



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

William W. Kraiss, 94, stands near the charter for American Legion Post No. 1, which he joined after World War I ended.

3.4.91 Eagle

War stirs memories

Lee man recalls early days of air power

By Gerald B.O'Connor

Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Memories tumble over each other in Bill Kraiss' mind. They are almost as numerous as the jumble of antiques and bric-a-brac that fill his incredibly cluttered antiques shop in South Lee.

As commentators and arm-chair strategists cohed and aashed the last couple of weeks over the technological sophistication of U.S. ground and air power in the Mideast war, William W. Kraiss, 94, shook his head and spoke of an era when air power was in its infancy and flying was managed largely on two wings and a prayer.

He had been a sergeant in the Signal Corps during World War I and had almost become a pilot trainee. "But the war ended, and I wanted to go home more than I wanted to



Kraiss holds Air Service collar insignia he designed.

Kraiss (pronounced Kray) still has a copy of the charter certificate for what was then the Army Air Service.

War stirs some very old memories

3.4.91 Eagle

■ MEMORIES, from A1

The general "had me design it and then make a drawing of it," Kraiss remembered. He has two of the insignia at his home.

Records at the Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pa., indicate that Maj. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold in 1917 designed the aviator's wing badge, which consisted of two wings on either side of a four-bladed propeller.

The records don't identify the designer of the Air Service's collar insignia, which was introduced July 17, 1918, but what the records do show is that the collar insignia matches the one drawn by Kraiss.

And the modern Air Force's historical section in Arlington, Va., shows that the general who headed the Army Air Service prior to 1917 and then became Air Service chief under Gen. John J. Pershing once the nation had entered the war was William L. Kenly, Kraiss' boss.

The memories tumble on. "The war ended on a Sunday," he said, "and Monday morning I was supposed to leave [Washington] and go in training to become an aviator. I wanted to go, too. But the general, Kenly, wanted to know if I still wanted to, and I said, 'No, I guess I don't.'"

Home to Mount Vernon

Even though the safety record of those old biplanes wasn't exactly trouble-free, Kraiss wanted to fly them. "When you're young," he said, "you're not afraid. You'll do just about anything."

Time to go home

But what he really wanted to do was go home. So he stuck with his desk job until he was discharged and then returned to his home turf, which was Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Not that he hadn't had an interesting time in Washington. "There were all kinds of affairs to make war workers happy," he recalled. "Dances and different things like that. They had movie actors and actresses visit and dress up those things." Kraiss attended his share.

And he came down with influenza for what was then the Army Air Service.

"When you're young," Kraiss said, "you're not afraid. You'll do just about anything."

enza, as almost everyone did in the epidemic that swept America and Europe late in the war. "More died from the flu than from the war," said Kraiss, who lost an 18-year-old friend to it. "Was Kraiss very sick? 'We-e-ll, yeah, I guess I was,' he said. Then, with a chuckle, he remembered that "the doctor gave me some pills and told me to sit in the sun a lot."

"So I sat in the sun, and I got better."

Sold antiques

He got into the antiques business back in Mount Vernon. It wasn't anything he planned. "I don't know what started me," he said. "Probably it was by going to auctions and just collecting stuff. But one time I had to get out of a house I was renting, and I had all this stuff to take with me."

One of his brothers worked for a bank at the time and observed that the bank owned a storefront. "He said I could store it all there," said Kraiss.

It turned out to be pregnant suggestion, because passers-by began "to look in and ask me would I sell this or that, and that's how I got into the business."

It has kept him going most of the 68 or 70 years since then.

Chuckling, he remembers pieces of furniture he sold but would like to have kept, exhibitions he attended "up and down the East Coast," opportunities he has missed and comparisons he has lived long enough to witness.

He remembers working in New York City in the 1920s for an interior decorator employed by the Herter Looms company, and he specifically remembers the price tag — \$500,000 — on the furnis-

ings of the home of one of New York's wealthier residents. He "A few years ago," he continued, "they sold the furnishings from that home at Sotheby's, and one wing chair — just one wing chair — went for \$1 million."

Bought Lenox inn

In 1940 or thereabouts, Kraiss said, he and his wife, Ethel, bought what was then a summer inn on Greenwood Street in Lenox. They called it The Hidden House and charged \$3.50 a night to lodgers who even then were coming to the Berkshires as tourists and vacationers. "It was a beautiful house inside. It had a big ballroom and I can't remember how many fireplaces."

"We owned it 12 years and, foolishly, we sold it cheap: \$23,000. Now, you probably couldn't buy it for 10 times that." In its more recent life it has been called Whistler's Inn.

In the off-season, Kraiss said, he bought and sold furniture and furnishings, exhibited what he thought were good pieces in antiques shows "and had a lot of fun."

After selling the inn, the Kraisses moved to Easthampton and operated an antiques shop there. Then, 25 years ago, they returned to the Berkshires, settling in the house in South Lee that is still called The Old Time Shop.

Shop now closed

It is an ancient building whose sign tells the passer-by that it is open weekdays from 10:30 to 5:30. Tucked in the window of the front door, however, is another sign that says "closed." Inside, there is everything from old paintings, lanterns, pails and snowshoes to equally old quilts, books and post cards.

"I don't keep it open any more," said Kraiss. "When my wife was alive, we had an open shop. But when you get as old as me, people try to take advantage of you. And they steal things, too."

Ethel Kraiss died 15 years ago. But Bill Kraiss has friends who drop in on him. And nearly every day, he stops uptown at Joe's

Diner for lunch. "I tell everyone the reason I'm still alive is because I eat at Joe's," he said.

He still attracts attention from beyond the borders of Lee. James R. Everett, the present adjutant of American Legion Post 1 in Washington wants to know how many of Kraiss' fellow charter members are alive and plans to suggest that the Legion undertake a survey. Meanwhile, he has just sent Kraiss a certificate of honorary life membership in the post.

Kraiss is equally proud of another framed certificate, this one from the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield that says he and two of his brothers, Gustave and Edwin, "are now immortalized as part of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame." It is dated Oct. 12, 1989, and is signed by one Wayne Patterson, research specialist.

The Fordham Flash

It seems Kraiss and his brothers were members in the 1914-15 season of the Hudson Athletic Club basketball team in Mount Vernon, champions of Westchester County. A photograph of the team, all six of members of it, together with the manager was considered of sufficient interest by Patterson to warrant this immortalization. Kraiss thinks it's nice, but kind of amusing, too.

"What they didn't know at the Hall of Fame was that Frankie Frisch played for us, too." That's guaranteed to take memories back a way. Frisch, nicknamed the "Fordham Flash," played baseball for the New York Giants and St. Louis Cardinals from 1919 to 1937, managed in the major leagues at various times through 1951 and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1947.

Memories. William W. Kraiss seems to have a million of them. "For a guy 94, he's really in good shape," said Joseph Sorrentino, proprietor of the diner that Kraiss frequents. "He doesn't even need glasses."

Workshop proposed for housing problems

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-

The news articles on the plight of Berkshire landlords [Eagle, Feb. 24, 25] and the sympathetic editorial [Eagle, Feb. 25] in this respect are deserving of much appreciation. Thank you for calling attention to a situation that is causing a great deal of distress in our county for public officials, bankers, landlords, tenants and the community at large.

Perhaps there are people who would like to work on solutions to these problems in a workshop setting. Please contact Bradley Gordon, co-director of the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority at 443-7138 if you are interested.

JEROME HURWITZ

Laurel Street 3.5.91

The writer is owner of Lexington Manor Apartments in Lee.

Lee High releases honor roll

LEE -- Lee High School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 1990-91 school year, which ended Jan. 18. Of the 327 enrollment, 89 students earned honors.

The criterion for high honors is a grade average of 90 and above with no grade lower than 80, and for honors, a grade average of 85-90, with no grade lower than 75.

Grade 12: Heather Browne, Ariel Collins, Trina Cysz, Dawn Davis, Denis Ford, Thomas Mouglin, Michele Naventi, Rhonda Nixon and Vanessa Piacentino.

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Grade 11: Rebecca Allen, Cathleen Cinella, Sheila Collins, Paul Consolati, Renee Cory, Amanda Lahey, Ralph Olds, April Slater and Richard Wescott.

Grade 10: Samuel Fix, Mark Grady, Elena LaGrant, Michael Puntin, William Roche and Karen Scheurer.

Grade 9: James Braim, Sara Burt, Heidi Clauss, Chris Eccher, Nathan Jones, Kelly Palmer, Joshua Shaw, Allison Skowron and Elisheva Verdi.

Honors

Grade 12: Kathy Antoniazzi, Michelle Bailly, Timothy Bianco, Cynthia Cahalen, Shannon Driscoll, Brenda Dupras, Doreen Eckert, Melissa LaGrant, Steven Mack, Jessie McManmon, Paul Mhleik, Rena Parker, Michelle Phillips, Richard Puleri, Jeffrey Quigley, Rebecca Rollins, Jennifer Simmons, Stacey Soules, Nicole Souza, Alastair Taylor and Tony Viola.

Grade 11: Aaron Brighenti, Lisa Burrell, Nancy Caramella, Renee Cory, Christine Fennner, Melissa Hayes, Kristi Holian, Michelle Kennedy, Betsy Loring, Lisa Pyenson, Travis Roberts, Lisa Shoppe, Nadine Souza and Heather Stanard.

Grade 10: Sara Davis, Gwendolyn Goehring, Tammy Higgins, Brandi Litchfield, Timothy Logsdon, Felicia Piacentino, Robert Piccolo, Matthew Puntin, Rebecca Sutton and Derek Walker.

Grade 9: Rodney Bragdon, Lee Brighenti, David Cornellier, Jenny Cory, Amy DiMario, Andrea Koenig, Kasey McManmon, Melanie North, Ruth Olds, Jeffrey Puleri and Danica Vaninetti.

Dispute over inn's sign is resolved

LEE -- A legal dispute over what the town has characterized as illegal placement of a sign on the Black Swan Inn has evidently been resolved, precluding a District Court trial and paving the way to dismissal or filing of two criminal complaints against the inn's owners.

The action leading to this, said Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, has been the removal of one of two signs from the inn building by owners L. George and Sallie Kate Kish.

Building Inspector Robert J. Lester last year had charged the Kishes with two violations of the town's zoning ordinance because of the extra sign. One charge involved the erection of two signs on the inn building where only one is permitted; the other involves the erection of a sign without a permit.

The matter was scheduled for trial in Southern Berkshire District Court last Thursday but was continued to Aug. 26 for a pretrial conference, according to a representative of the district attorney's office.

The continuance, suggested Scully and Court Clerk Laura Rilla, is a sign the charges will eventually be dropped. Eagle 3.7.91

Hodgkins Wants Seat In Congress

LEE -- Christopher Hodgkins will announce his candidacy Tuesday for the Congressional seat formerly held by the late Silvio O. Conte.

The Democrat, 33, was re-elected in November to his fifth term in the state Legislature from the 4th Berkshire District.

"This has been a life long dream," Mr. Hodgkins said during an interview Wednesday. "And I think my experience as a legislator, and my proven willingness to stand up for the people all the time, qualify me for the office."

"You know, most of the other announced candidates have said they'll run on a platform of populism. But when I'm the only legislator to show up for electric rate commission hearings, and other hearings which are going to affect people's lives, I wonder."

Mr. Hodgkins said his campaign would concentrate on the issues of campaign finance reform (he estimates his race will cost \$250,000 through the primary), term limitation, cable TV regulation and educational and environmental issues.

"It's not going to be a sexy, slick campaign," he said. "I'm

Berkshire Courier 3.7.91 Please turn to Page 16

Hodgkins Continued from Page 1 3.7.91

going to run as I always have -- by getting out and talking to the voters."

Mr. Hodgkins and his wife, Deborah, have two children and live in Lee. He said they have refinanced their home to raise \$50,000 of what he estimates will be the cost of the race.

Mr. Hodgkins will formally announce his candidacy at a rally at Lee High School Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m.

-- John E. Larabee

Lee Movie A Boost

To the Editor:

The idea of making a movie which probably will start in April will be a boost to Berkshire County, not only for providing jobs for those who might be in this film, but an added bonus for tourism and a good image of the kinds of people who reside in Berkshire County.

As our economy, not only in Massachusetts, but especially the Berkshires, is in a recession, anything that can help us is to be welcomed. Who know, there may be many who might wish to live in Berkshire County on a permanent basis. For those already living here who might think the grass is greener elsewhere, especially those who are young, just out of

Great Team From Lee High

To the Editor:

The Lee High School girls' basketball team is on the run and will win the Western Mass. title.

Tom Cinella has done an outstanding job at Lee High and deserves a lot of credit.

Taconic did come close but the Wildcats put them away to win the county title. Smith Academy was blown out of the water. Lenox High will go down also. The Wildcats have a great 21-0 record, the best in Western Mass.

Best of luck in the tournament.

Great Barrington

Don Heath

Berkshire Courier 3.7.91

high school or college might reconsider and stay around to work to live and raise families.

John R. Copeland

Lee

Chartock Speaker At Awards Session

GREAT BARRINGTON -- Roselle Kline Chartock of this town, assistant professor of education at North Adams State College, spoke on "Immigrant Women: Our Common Link" at the recent Real Women Creative Competition awards presentation March 6 at Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield.

Among South County winners were Melissa Labrant and Tracey Elizabeth Roberts, Lee High School, and Leslie Patricia Fields, Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington.

Berkshire Courier

Laurels to Lee youth

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-

The town of Lee can be justly proud of the exceptionally fine Lee High School athletes. At least equal attention should be given to the high school's drama club. For its superb performances, it should have had a standing ovation. Hours of preparation and sweating out their apprehensions paid off in three outstanding shows. Bravos to them and to Lee High School's quiz team which belies the notion that young folks have no thirst for knowledge.

LESTER J. CLARKE

Pleasant Street
South Lee

3.6.91



Photo by John Fainal

3.7.91

Eagle

3.7.91

Lee's Shannon Driscoll, left, rejects Lenox's Nichole Field on this drive to the basket last night at Monument Mountain. Helping from the outside is Lee defender Jen Finnegan. Driscoll had 25 points and Finnegan 10 in the Wildcats' 83-46 Western Mass. Division 3 semifinal victory.

New lighting at Lee High ^{Eagle 3.7.91} could save \$20,000 a year

LEE — An energy audit of Lee High School says \$173,410 worth of new lighting fixtures would save the school system nearly \$20,000 a year in power and maintenance costs and would be paid for in seven years.

Presented to the School Committee on Tuesday night, the report generated considerable discussion and a statement by Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski that he would include on the annual town meeting warrant a line item to cover such an outlay,

Zionist leader to speak tomorrow at temple

PITTSFIELD — Rabbi Eric Yoffie, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, will speak at Temple Anshe Amunim tomorrow.

Yoffie, of Westfield, graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University, received his rabbinic education at the Hebrew Union College in New York, and served as director of the Midwest Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations for three years.

Since 1983, he has been the executive director of ARZA, and serves on the boards of trustees of the United Israel Appeal and on the National Committee for Labour Israel, among other positions.

At noon tomorrow, members of the temple and general community have been invited to join Yoffie for an informal brown bag lunch and discussion of the various reform movement projects currently under way.

At 8 p.m., during Shabbat services, Yoffie will discuss Israel and the situation in the Persian Gulf.

recognizing that the Finance and Capital Outlay committees and the Selectmen still must review it.

But to get the item on the warrant by the deadline, Zukowski said, he must act now and wait for the various boards to address the plan in their own time.

The annual town meeting is set for May 9.

The audit, by the Ventana Corp. of Bethel, Conn., was paid for by Lee and Western Mass. Electric Co. in equal amounts, \$5,548 apiece for a total of \$11,096.

One of the attractions of the audit proposal, Zukowski said, is that WMECO would contribute nearly half the cost, or \$77,151. The town's share would come to \$96,259.

New state-of-the-art lighting equipment, the audit contends, would save \$14,068 in annual power costs as well as an estimated \$5,000 in annual ballast and lamp replacements.

Long-range savings

In a period of severe fiscal hardship for the commonwealth and its cities and towns, any outlay beyond what a community sees as absolutely necessary will probably meet heavy weather. Zukowski indicated he is aware of this but suggested that the lighting plan offers some long-range savings that should not be dismissed out of hand.

If the town meeting ultimately approves the outlay, the School Department would have to advertise for bids for a company to design a new lighting system and then advertise for bids for the installation itself, the superintendent said. He added that he would not expect completion of the job until a year to 14 months from now.

Wildcats oust Lenox

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff ^{3.7.91}

GREAT BARRINGTON — The Lenox High girls' basketball team had the will. But Lee had the will and a way. And that was the difference last night at Monument Mountain, where the Wildcats scored a 63-46 victory over the Millionaires to advance to the Western Mass. Division 3 finals on Saturday morning at 10:45 at the Springfield Civic Center.

Division 3 Girls

"We played a real fine team tonight," Lee coach Tom Cinella said. "But I'm pleased to be going back to the Civic Center."

Lee, the No. 1 seed, will face No. 2 Frontier (18-1), a 59-57 double-overtime winner against Ware last night. The Wildcats, who have won the past two Division 3 state titles, are 22-0 this year and have a 30-game win streak in the works over the past two seasons.

Lenox, the No. 4 seed, finishes 16-5.

Shannon Driscoll led a balanced Wildcat attack with a team-high 25 points and nine rebounds. That negated a strong effort by Lenox's Samantha Herrick, who poured in a game-high 27 points.

"We wanted to get to the Civic Center," said Lee junior guard Jen Finnegan, who contributed 10 points. "And we weren't going to let Lenox stop us."

Wildcats start fast

A brick wall couldn't have stopped the Lee attack in the first half. With an electric atmosphere and a packed house of about 1,000 fans as a backdrop, the Wildcats were relentless on each end of the floor while surging to an early 27-8 lead.

Finnegan hit a long jumper for a 10-4 Lee lead, and following a Herrick jumper, Jessie McManmon and Michele Naventi had back-to-back three-point plays to

GIRLS, continued on D2

Lee girls reach final

■ GIRLS, from D1 ^{3.7.91 Eagle}
extend the lead to 16-6. Lenox's Sherry Zabian hit a runner in the lane, but the Wildcats went on an 11-0 run that was capped by a Katie Cinella basket off a steal and a Finnegan foul shot.

"I thought we'd play better in the beginning of the game," Lenox coach Fred Lafave said. "My kids worked hard, but we didn't execute the things we practiced. But Lee's a veteran team and they play good defense."

Naventi had a rebound hoop and Finnegan a steal and basket at the buzzer to give the Wildcats a 37-18 halftime lead.

The rivalry between Lee and Lenox, however, is too intense to call a game over at intermission. And the Millionaires came out for the second stanza determined to fight back.

Behind the inspired play of

Herrick, Lenox chopped the Lee advantage down to seven points with about 10:30 left in the game. After Lee's McManmon opened the second half with a basket, the Millionaires scored 11 straight points to cut the lead to 39-30.

Herrick had eight points in the rally while adding a nice assist on Emily Roche's hoop. Lee's Driscoll had a pair of foul shots, but Herrick passed to Roche for a basket and hit another jumper to make the score 41-34.

Lee, however, stemmed the tide with a quick 10-point run that increased the lead back to 17 points (51-34). Driscoll had six points during the rally while McManmon (13 points) converted off a steal and Finnegan hit another jumper. Zabian and Herrick came back with a basket each for Lenox, but the Wildcats turned in an 8-0 surge for a 59-38 lead that put the game away with about four minutes left.

Mead expansion a boost for local firms

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff ^{3.9.91}

SOUTH LEE — Mead Corp.'s \$14 million investment to improve the production capacities of its three papermaking machines will significantly increase business for local tradespeople this year, John C. Genzabella, vice president of operations, has announced.

The program, which will boost the division's production capacity by approximately 30 percent, began last year. However, the bulk of the money is expected to be spent this year.

The improvements are designed to meet the needs of expanding markets and to increase Mead's market share in key ar-

The program will increase the division's production capacity by approximately 30 percent. ^{Eagle}

eas, David L. Klausmeyer, division president, said when the program was announced.

Mead makes various kinds of specialty papers but major products include decorative papers for laminated surfaces. The paper can sustain bonding with other materials, primarily plastics, under very high pressure. The company is now expanding its market for low-pressure uses for

the paper, primarily in walls.

Genzabella said that Beloit Fiber Systems Division in Dalton is manufacturing two new pulpers and refiners as part of the improvements.

Other companies involved, he said, are Hill Engineering of Dalton, which is providing engineering services for equipment layout, and Potash, Delmolino & Davis, also of Dalton, which is

providing planning and engineering services.

Southern Berkshire Welding of Lenox is providing piping, millwork and installation; T.W. Shaffer Inc. of Lenox Dale is performing piping and installation, and Western Mass Construction of Lee is handling demolition, concrete work and rigging.

Also involved are Ryan Electric, Dalton, for electrical installation; Richard Palmer of Lee for construction services, and A.J. Schnopp of Dalton, general contracting. Fusini Co. of Dalton will work on equipment installation and Wahconah Welding of Dalton will handle piping and equipment installation.

Superstore needed farther south

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Why is Lee planning to build another apartment complex when there are so many apartments vacant in the county [Eagle, Feb. 24]? Are the taxpayers going to assume some of this cost — again?

And I still don't know why Stop & Shop would build another store on the Pittsfield-Lenox line when such a superstore would be so beneficial farther into South County to serve the towns past Lee — Great Barrington, Otis etc. It doesn't make sense to me. Can I have a sensible answer to these questions?

Marble Street
Lee

ANN ASTBURY



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Principal Raymond Kavey walks under an arch of rulers, pointers and other objects lifted in his honor on his last day at Lee Central.

Farewell for a longtime principal

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.9.91

LEE — Raymond B. Kavey, principal at Lee Central School since 1958, officially retired yesterday amid a flurry of receptions and gatherings organized by the school's staff in a nearly successful effort to keep the whole thing a secret from him.

Although he had been suspicious something was afoot a day or two beforehand, he wasn't entirely sure what it was until a limousine showed up at his front door at 125 Crane Ave. in Pittsfield yesterday morning at 7:30 to drive him and his wife, Marion, to the schoolhouse.

In front of the main entrance off High Street in Lee, the two of them walked under an arch of rulers,

chalkboard pointers and other implements held aloft in the manner of a military reception by faculty and staff while the student band played appropriate airs.

Variety of implements

Despite a biting wind, nearly half the 73-member staff formed on either side of the front walk, covered by a red paper carpet. Some showed inventiveness by raising non-academic implements, like the telephone cords and receivers held by secretaries Debbie Gangell and Rosalie McCollum, the plumber's plunger produced by custodian Kenneth Roode ("You teach with a pointer," he told faculty members, "I teach with this."), and a hockey stick

raised by physical-education instructor Edward Markowski.

Staff members sported buttons saying "Happy Retirement, Mr. Kavey. March 8, 1991."

"I feel like a high school kid being escorted to the dance," said Marion Kavey with a joyful smile. She and her husband both wore carnations.

On his desk, Kavey found a cardboard "no parking" sign. He smiled at that. "This place is famous for lack of parking," he said.

Ushered to the downstairs cafeteria, he stopped for a minute at the central office, leaning across the counter to speak with the secretaries. Poking his head into the room to learn the reason for the

LAST DAY, continued on B4

Lee Central bids farewell to Kavey

■ LAST DAY, from B1 3.9.91

interruption, Vice Principal Stephen Cozzaglio turned and said, laughing, "He's still ordering the new reading series."

In the cafeteria, the Kaveys greeted 7th and 8th graders for the last time, had doughnuts and hot chocolate with them and then during the rest of the morning were greeted by elementary classes whose members performed, sang and read passages from popular stories like "Winnie the Pooh."

Public reception held

Present and former staff members, some members of the School Committee and administrators, including Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski and his wife, Joan, joined them at a buffet luncheon. Finally, they were guests at a public reception from 2 to 4.

"It was a marvelous day," said Marion Kavey.

She and her husband said that in a short time they plan to take a motor trip to visit some of their children and grandchildren who live in Waco, Texas, and Bradenton and Cape Coral in Florida. They have five sons, two of whom live in Pittsfield, and 10 grandchildren.

Kavey is 62.

A native of Pittsfield, he graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1946, served in the Army for a year at the end of World War II and then obtained bachelor's and master's degrees

from North Adams State College. His teaching career began in 1953 with appointment as teaching principal at Otis Consolidated School. The school was within Superintendent Union 29, which includes Lee, and in 1957, he became a teacher of English and social studies in the junior high grades at the then Lee Central High School.

He became teaching principal of the elementary school, K-6, in the Central School's Hyde Wing in 1958 and then became principal of the K-8 Lee Central Schools — there was more than one at the time — in 1962.

Teachers view him as a popular administrator whose principal legacies are the institution of comprehensive art, music and industrial and home arts programs; an ability to maintain small classes, 25 students or fewer, in the face of pressures to increase them under the restrictions of tax-limiting Proposition 2½; introduction of computers, creation of computer laboratories and employment of a full-time audiovisual specialist; strengthening the school's libraries, of which there are two, with 15,000 volumes, and obtaining roughly \$1 million in grants over the years for materials, salaries and special projects.

At the moment there is no successor to Kavey, who has accumulated vacation time and will remain on the payroll as principal until sometime in April.

Wildcats 'three-peat' with big 73-28 victory

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.10.91

Div. 3 Girls

SPRINGFIELD — The Lee High girls' basketball team is beginning to make the amazing look routine.

The Wildcats, who are on a quest for a third straight Division 3 state basketball title, simply overwhelmed Frontier 73-28 to win their third straight Western Mass. Division 3 title yesterday at the Springfield Civic Center.

Top-seeded Lee, which won its first Berkshire County title this year, is now 23-0 and has a 31-game winning streak over two seasons. The Wildcats' Shannon Driscoll equaled the entire Frontier output with a game-high 28 points, 19 of which came in the first half. Frontier, seeded No. 2, finished 18-2.

Lee's next opponent will be Lunenburg, which defeated Bromfield 54-53 in the Central Mass. title game yesterday. The Wildcats' state semifinal game will be played at Cathedral High on Tuesday night at 7.

Ring up another one

The Wildcats performed without any swagger in their step. The Lee team just punched the clock

and rang up another customer.

"You like not to see a game so lopsided," Lee coach Tom Cinella said. "But my kids were determined."

Cinella was asked to rate his team on a scale of one to 10 — with 10 being the best.

"Oh, I think we're pretty close to a 10 right now," Cinella said with a smile.

Driscoll has continually become more of a force in the Lee offense. The 6-foot-1 center hit on 12 of 21 attempts, collected 12 rebounds and blocked five shots.

"She's a big girl with a nice soft touch," said Frontier coach Vi Goodnow, assessing Driscoll's game. "I kept telling my kids to front Driscoll, but they never did. You'd think I was talking Chinese to my kids."

Terrors off the boards

The Wildcats were terrors off the boards. For the second straight game the Lee team collected more offensive rebounds (31) than defensive boards (27).

LEE, continued on C3



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee's Jessie McManmon, center, is boxed out of rebounding position by Frontier's Angie Jordan, left, and Becky Paciorek after taking a shot during yesterday's game at the Springfield Civic Center.

Wildcat girls win 3rd title

LEE, from C1 3.10.91

Jessie McManmon, who had a game-high 17 rebounds to go with 12 points, teamed with Driscoll for eight offensive caroms each.

"We usually see a lot of zone defenses," McManmon said. "But when a zone shifts to one side of the court, we have strong players on the other side to help beat the zone."

It was McManmon who benefited from Frontier's double team on Driscoll.

"We were really confident and not nervous," McManmon said. "We'd like to think that we can play in any division and do a good job."

The Lee defensive effort continued to be relentless. How many teams at any level set a goal during the game not to allow back-to-back baskets? Lee does.

"That's a goal that we actually go out with," Cinella said.

Frontier did score the first two baskets of the game. But the next time the Redskins' team was able to accomplish that feat was with 12:48 left in the second half. And those two hoops came after a 12-0 Lee run to start the second half that made the score 43-18 in the Wildcats' favor.

From a weak league

"Our league [Pioneer] isn't a strong one," said Goodnow, addressing how a No. 2 seed could lose a title game by 45 points. "I really don't know what happened in the second half. We tried to get everyone involved but we didn't. What can I tell you?"

The game went from bad to worse. Goodnow said, when Frontier center Marcia Chmura picked up three early fouls in the first half.

Lee rebounded from the quick four-point deficit with eight straight points. The margin remained at four (14-10) with 7:15 left in the first half when the Wildcats' went on a 13-2 roll. Driscoll had eight points in that stretch while guard Katie Cinella added back-to-back hoops, one on a fast break and another on a jumper after a steal in the backcourt. Lee led 31-18 at halftime.

After Frontier's Carrie Klaes and Jen Ostrowski scored consecutive baskets in the second half, Lee cemented the win with an 18-0 run with Driscoll scoring the final seven points for a 63-24 lead. Tom Cinella then emptied the bench with about five minutes remaining.

Michele Naventi added nine points for the Wildcats and had a game-high, four assists.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Benched and celebrating

Katie Cinella, center, doused Jen Finnegan with water, and Michele Naventi tried to avoid the bath as Lee High's starting five enjoyed a light moment near the end of their 73-28 win over Frontier in the Western Mass. Division 3 title game yesterday. At right are Shannon Driscoll and a smiling Jessie McManmon. Story on Page C1.

Brush's 'hogwash' about Britain

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

Referring to the Feb. 15 column written by Stephanie Brush called "Brittania rules the airwaves," I wonder if the Americans, British, French and other soldiers fighting together were busy picking apart each other's accents. I also wonder where the "writer" got her information? It was nothing but pure hogwash.

I was born in England and now I'm a proud American so I take umbrage at her derogatory remarks. She cites Britain as a "stupid little island where it rains all the time," and where

they "eat tubs of lard and call it pudding" and she asks rhetorically "why aren't they a world superpower?" If she gets queasy just watching "mixed media" events, she should know how sick I felt when I read that arrogant, nonsensical, supercilious, demoralizing, denigrating piece of rubbish she tried to pass off as journalism. This is the type of writing that starts wars in the first place. If Ms. Brush owns a dictionary she could look up ignoramus. If the shoe fits...

MAY COLLINS

South Lee 3.13.91

Hodgkins to kick off bid for U.S. representative

Five-term state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said yesterday that he will announce Tuesday he is a candidate for the U.S. Congressional District 1 seat held by the late Silvio O. Conte.

Hodgkins, now the chairman of the House Committee on Local Affairs, said he will make the twin issues of jobs and economic development the main themes of his campaign. He will begin his day of announcement at 11 a.m. in front of the main gate at GE, where 1,500 layoffs have occurred during the past year.

At 12:30 p.m., Hodgkins will speak in Greenfield at Platkin Interiors, a firm that is moving to North Carolina, he said.

He will be at City Hall in Northampton at 1:30 p.m., and at University Products, a thriving firm in Holyoke, at 2:30.

The official kickoff address will be Tuesday evening at 7 at Lee High School, he said.

He said that during the last week he and his wife have taken a \$50,000 mortgage on their Lee house and raised another \$63,000 toward the campaign. Hodgkins said he recognized the large amount of money required to conduct a congressional campaign, and would try to run his campaign as economically as possible, relying on the organization he has built in Berkshire County, as well as those in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties.

New hearing slated on fuel storage license

LEE — The Selectmen have tentatively set March 25 as the date for a new hearing on the issuance of a propane-storage license for Lee Oil Co. at its fuel-storage terminal on outer Maple Street.

The previous hearing was held Jan. 7, but Maple Street residents say it should have been Jan. 14 because that was the date set down in the Selectmen's minutes and included in reports in three newspapers.

Shaun M. Smith, who lives near the terminal and has become a spokesman for residents opposed to the license, said Friday that the Selectmen had told him and perhaps a half dozen of his neighbors of the new hearing date last Monday during a meeting in the Airolidi Building.

The Selectmen had been pondering the matter in light of a written opinion from Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully that no new hearing was warranted. Scully said he could find no defect in the advertisement for the

hearing and observed that all people with interest in the license had been present.

The fact that a newspaper account said the hearing was scheduled for Jan. 14, instead of the Jan. 7 date when the meeting was actually held, did not invalidate the hearing, he indicated. Selectman Joseph Dupont said that the Selectmen were not required to schedule another hearing on the matter.

But Smith maintained that Scully issued the opinion with incomplete information. It was not just that one newspaper carried the Jan. 14 date, but that three had done so, he said, adding that it was also recorded that way in the Selectmen's minutes.

When he and his neighbors made this point, he said, the Selectmen decided to go ahead with the scheduling of a new hearing. They made it tentative in order to find out from Scully whether it must be advertised in the newspaper, which could necessitate a later date.

Lee, Wahconah seeking state

Wildcats on target for 'Three-peat'

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee and Seekonk are once again on a collision course. But before the two Division 3 girls' basketball teams meet for the second consecutive year in the state championship game, each must overcome one last opponent.

The Wildcats, who are the defending Division 3 state champions, defeated Seekonk last year in the title game by a 54-34 score. Lee, which won the Western Mass. Division 3 title on Saturday with a convincing 73-28 win over Frontier, will play Central Mass. champion Lunenburg tonight at 7 at Cathedral High School.

Seekonk (17-6), meanwhile, won the Boston-South title on Saturday when it defeated Medfield 56-32. Seekonk will play Boston-North winner Notre Dame of Tyngsboro tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Boston Garden for the Eastern Mass. title.

Lee is 23-0 and has a 31-game winning streak

Division 3 Girls

that stretches over two seasons. The Wildcats expect to be tested tonight by Blue Knight guard Marcia Price, a 5-foot-6 leaper who is averaging about 24 points and nine rebounds per contest.

Price, who has been rated by many Division 1 women's basketball coaches as one of the top five high school guards in the nation, accepted a full scholarship to St. John's (N.Y.) University back in the fall. She routinely has cleared 5 feet or better in the high jump for the girls' track and field team, usually will take the center jump, and has rarely been beaten.

"She's unbelievable," Lee coach Tom Cinella said of Price's abilities on the basketball court. "But we're not out to beat Marcia Price. We're out to defeat Lunenburg."

GIRLS, continued on D6

Lee seeks third title

■ GIRLS, from D1

Cinella indicated that swing player Michele Naventi would probably draw the defensive assignment on Price, while point guard Katie Cinella would help out when the double-team was warranted.

"Marcia's a flat-out player," Lunenburg fourth-year coach Jack Salo said. "She can shoot the ball and take it to the basket."

Salo added that Price is a fine ballhandler, "and she can run with you for 32 minutes."

Salo said he expects the Lee team to be pressing defensively.

"It will be interesting to see what effect the press will have," Salo said. "It should be a challenge for both teams."

Cinella indicated that Lunenburg might have problems defensively under the basket. The Blue Knights are not a big team and that could mean another solid effort from Lee 6-foot-1 center Shannon Driscoll and 5-foot-10 forward Jessie McManmon.

"My [scouting] reports say that Lunenburg has trouble in the low post defensively," Cinella said. "Some under .500 teams have been able to stay with Lunenburg just by rebounding against them this year."

Salo said his team would run when it could, but is equally comfortable with a halfcourt offense. The Blue Knights are also prone to switching defenses, moving from a man-to-man to a 2-1-2 zone.

Lunenburg was the 10th seed in

a 14-team field to begin the Central Mass. tournament. But this is not a Cinderella story. The Central Mass. seeding committee places teams strictly by their overall record and not strength of schedule the way the Western Mass. committee does.

The Blue Knights have a healthy dose of Division 1 and 2 teams on their schedule.

"We don't have Lee's kind of history," Salo said. "But we aren't a surprise team this year. We didn't sneak up on anybody."

Beth Kirby opens at center for the Blue Knights, while Meredith McGuirk and Robyn Bertran start at forward. Holly Schaff joins Price in the backcourt, while Jessica Blake is the first player off the bench.

Guard Jen Finnegan rounds out the Lee starting five, while Sheila Collins, Dina Souza, Allison Forfa and A.J. Skowron have been receiving playing time off the bench.

To Cathedral High School: Take Exit 6 off the Massachusetts Turnpike. Then stay in the left lane to get on Interstate 291, headed East. Take the Indian Orchards exit and stay in the right lane. Merge into traffic at end of exit ramp and immediately get to the far left lane. At light take a left onto Roosevelt Avenue. Stay on Roosevelt for about three miles. Look for Surrey Road on the right. Cathedral is about 100 yards up Surrey Road on the right.

Lee hearing postponed

LEE — The Selectmen have called off a hearing on a propane-storage permit tentatively set for March 25 and will set a new date after the state fire marshal acts on a related appeal.

At the center of the issue is Lee Oil Co., which owns a fuel-oil terminal on outer Maple Street and wants to exercise its recently granted license that, among other things, would allow it to park a propane tank truck there.

Permission to park the truck has been withheld by Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll on grounds that it would pose a fire and explosion hazard. A Maple Street resident, Shaun M. Smith, has filed an appeal with the fire marshal contending the same thing.

The fire marshal, Joseph A. O'Keefe, said yesterday he expects to determine whether the appeal warrants a formal hearing by the middle of next week.

Whatever his decision, it will have a bearing on the license hearing before the Selectmen, the board said Monday.

The hearing was Jan. 7. The foes of Lee Oil maintain it should have been Jan. 14. Scully ruled that he found no defect in the Jan. 7 date and observed that all parties were present for the hearing that evening.

Whenever it is scheduled, it will give Maple Street residents an opportunity they say they were denied in early January to mount prepared opposition to the permit. Smith and several others contended at that time, and have argued since, that the January date was misstated in both the newspapers and the Selectmen's minutes.

The Selectmen, bowing to repeated requests from the Maple Streeters for a new hearing, decided two weeks ago to schedule one.

O'Keefe had been expected to issue findings by March 1 on both Smith's appeal and a similar one involving Lee Oil on Ferncliff Avenue, but he contracted pneumonia at the end of February and was delayed.

Lee Selectmen field variety of complaints at meeting

By Gerald B. O'Connor

Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — It was free-for-all time Monday night at the Selectmen's office, where:

► Builder Thomas Garrity demanded that Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont disqualify himself from voting on Garrity's petition for a special permit. He wants to add apartment units to his development on West Park Street, and he accused Dupont of having already stated publicly that there is "no way" that he will receive the permit. Dupont said he had no memory of such a statement but made no comment on Garrity's demand that he abstain from voting.

► The Selectmen voted 2-1 to hire Patricia A. Walsh of Pittsfield as the town's new interdepartmental clerk, triggering an accusation by Assistant Town Clerk Patricia D. Carlino that the choice was a personal and political slap in her face. Carlino three weeks ago had recommended a Lee applicant, Suzanne Scarpa, before Dupont informed her that his board would interview all the applicants and not take her recommendation.

► A group of angry townspeople sought the Selectmen's intervention in the week-old School Department controversy over the hiring of a high school baseball coach. Dupont advised the group's spokesman, Frank Dignard, that the School Committee, which is an elected body, is not subject to overrule by the Selectmen in such matters. The committee last week turned down Steven Consolati, who had been recommended as coach by the athletic director, Lee High School principal and superintendent, and then voted 3-2 to hire the junior varsity coach, Robert Echer, instead.

► The owners of the Black Swan Inn renewed their effort unsuccessfully — to have the

board let them put back up the sign they just removed from their inn in a battle over the town's zoning bylaw. One of the owners, L. George Kish, angrily maintained that he has "been consistently persecuted" by the board over the signs and charged that other businesses in town have two signs, while he is allowed only one. Selectman William D. Bean just as angrily disputed Kish's remarks.

► The Selectmen voted 2-1 to allow Building Inspector Robert J. Lester to join the town's medical insurance plan on grounds he puts in more than 20 hours a week on the job — the minimum — even though those hours are irregular. Dupont, who cast the dissenting vote, said he thought the move a "dangerous" one in that it will be a precedent for adding other part-time employees to a program whose costs are spiraling upward dramatically.

In the case of the West Park Street apartments, Garrity has applied for a special permit to put up six units in a separate building to go with 10 units in an existing building. He had wanted to add the six to the existing structure, and Dupont did say he had characterized this as illegal because the bylaw allows no more than 12 units in one building.

But Garrity produced a witness, Brian Thorne, who said he heard Dupont in Otis one day say there was no way Garrity would get his permit.

Lester, the building inspector, said Garrity had submitted new plans that meet all requirements, save an architect's seal, which he said would be added. A public hearing on the proposal will be set.

Clerk is upset

The brouhaha over the appointment of the interdepartmental secretary was round three in an ongoing battle that ap-

peared to begin several weeks ago when Carlino asked for assistance in the town clerk's and treasurer's office at Town Hall.

Carlino, with support from Selectman Diane P. Roosa, has been on one side of the dispute, and Dupont — most of the time with the concurrence of Bean — has been on the other.

Since the retirement of John J. Nagle from the clerk's and treasurer's posts Jan. 9, Carlino has been doing the work pretty much alone. She received some help for a few days from a former part-time secretary, Carol Marino, until Marino left the town's employ at the end of January to take another job. It was then that Carlino asked for appointment of an assistant.

Dupont refused, but Roosa and Bean agreed to advertise for an interdepartmental clerk to pick up the slack, leading to Monday night's appointment. Because Carlino was to be the supervisor, she had selected applicants for interviews and ultimately recommended Scarpa.

But at the same time Dupont announced that the Selectmen, who are the town's appointing authority, would interview all applicants and make their own choice. On Monday night, he and Bean voted for Walsh while Roosa backed Carlino's recommendation.

Dupont said Walsh, in his opinion, was "the best qualified, and I feel she would be an asset to the town." Bean agreed.

"I feel this is a personal and political thing," Carlino countered, adding she did not think the Selectmen were competent to judge the needs of the position.

"I don't think you have any idea what goes on over there," she said, referring to the town clerk's office.

Dupont and Bean said Carlino had been invited to take part in the interviews, but she said she

was not aware of that.

One week ago, the Selectmen appointed Abby Kramer of Pittsfield to fill the post formerly held by Marino but increased its hours from 18 a week to 22. That job calls for clerical assistance to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, building inspector and, during vacations, the Selectmen.

At a rate of \$7.91 an hour, it will pay about \$174 a week. The interdepartmental job at Town Hall, which is full-time and

salaried, will start at about \$280 a week.

In asking for the Selectmen's intervention with the school board over the baseball coaching appointment, Dignard said he and others "feel that Mr. Consolati was recommended by the whole administration" and should therefore have been appointed.

Michael Salinetti, who is the Lee High football coach, said the outpouring of support for Consolati is "not a personal attack."

on other candidates but amounts to endorsement of someone who they feel is best qualified for the post. Furthermore, he said, "We just want the school committee to be accountable."

A new petition is being circulated in town asking the committee to rescind last week's appointment. About 190 signatures have been collected so far. Dignard said he has already asked for inclusion on next week's committee agenda.

Repeal of Century Cable 'late fee' will be sought by Lee Selectmen

LEE — The Selectmen have voted unanimously to call on Century Berkshire Cable Corp. to drop a highly controversial \$10 "late fee" that was included among a host of increased charges imposed by the company March 1.

Century Berkshire provides cable television service to customers in the four towns of Lee, Stockbridge, Lenox and Great Barrington. It is headquartered in Lee.

The late fee, which the company calls a "processing fee" to be imposed "upon generation of a delinquency notice," is just one of the charges that have raised customers' hackles and generated cries of outrage from members of the four-town Cable Advisory Committee.

Before the new charges took effect, there was no late fee. Bruce Kaideen, an alternate delegate from Lee to the advisory committee, said the \$10 fee

"amounts to a 50 percent surcharge" when one compares it, in round figures, to the monthly charge for cable service, which is now \$18.95.

Catherine Fields, one of Lee's delegates to the advisory committee, said it had been explained to her that the \$10 would be imposed if a bill were not paid within 45 days of receipt.

Seek appropriations

She and Kaideen asked the Selectmen not only to ask for repeal of the charge but to appropriate \$200 for the balance of the current fiscal year to support the Cable Advisory Committee and \$300 for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, for the same purpose.

They said in a written report to the Selectmen that "since 50 cents per subscriber of Century Cable TV is returned to the town of Lee, we do not feel this is an unusual request."

Some of the money will be used for routine expenses like Lee's share of a secretary to take minutes of the committee's monthly meetings, they said. The rest will help pay for a four-town survey of residents' problems with cable service and ways to improve it. Century Berkshire has offered to supplement the cost of the survey.

One of the perceived problems, already enunciated several times, is that Century Berkshire's rates have risen too high, too rapidly. The March 1 increase was the third in 22 months and brought all three, collectively, to 72 percent of what the company was charging in March 1989.



Christopher J. Hodgkins speaks at GE's main gate, accompanied by his wife, Deborah, and his mother, Betty, left. Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Hodgkins formally announces

By Mary-Jane Tichenor
and D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Christopher J. Hodgkins, the five-term state representative from Lee, yesterday formally announced his Democratic candidacy for the 1st Congressional District seat left vacant by the death of Silvio O. Conte.

Hodgkins spoke in front of GE's main gate with his wife, Deborah, at his side. His mother, Betty Hodgkins of Lee, was among those waving Hodgkins placards.

GE was Hodgkins' first stop before going on to the Pioneer Valley to visit Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke and then home to Lee, where about 250 supporters crowded

the auditorium of his hometown high school.

"I'm no Hubert Humphrey, no Silvio Conte, but I'm going to try," Hodgkins told the Lee audience. "Some people have advised me to 'mellow out.' Well, we had a congressman here for 32 years who was anything but mellow. He spoke up and worked hard for the people of this district. I want to do the same. . . . I want to be your congressman and I need your help."

Hodgkins estimated that he will need about 12,000 votes to win the Democratic primary, and he noted that he received more than 8,000 votes during his 1990 campaign for re-election.

The Democratic state representative said

that his congressional campaign will focus on economic development and the creation of jobs. He said he will stress bringing back a healthy and vibrant economy to the region, providing educational and economic opportunity, and promoting the interests of the area.

Cites GE layoffs

"What those interests are can be determined easily by looking around you," Hodgkins said in Pittsfield. "Here at GE, there have been 1,000 layoffs just during the past year. With unemployment reaching 9.3 percent statewide, what we need is a commitment to invest our resources in

CAMPAIGN, continued on B4

Rep. Hodgkins makes his candidacy official

■ CAMPAIGN, from B1 3.13.91
Hodgkins first was elected to the Massachusetts House in 1982. During his nine years as a legislator, he has worked for environmental protection, consumer advocacy, public education and elderly affairs.

He was co-founder of the Legislature's environmental caucus, vice chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, and for the past two years has been House chairman of the Joint Committee on Local Affairs.

His name has been on every major environmental protection law enacted since 1982, he said.

He said his priorities will be issues concerning children and the elderly and to promote the interests and needs of his constituency. He said that he has fought for state funding for Head Start programs, Meals on Wheels and Home Care, and had co-sponsored such initiatives as a freeze on Medex rates.

Still has state job

He pledged that his attention to state business in the Legislature won't suffer during his campaign.

"I've been elected to do a job," Hodgkins said. "The budget deliberations occurring right now are going to have a huge impact on everyone in this state, and right now dealing with that is my first priority."

Hodgkins will be one in a field of at least 11 candidates expected to be in the Democratic primary on April 30. The final election will be June 4.

Hodgkins said he is planning to open campaign headquarters in Pittsfield and in Holyoke by the end of the week. His campaign staff will include William Benson of Greenfield, chief of operations, who was with him yesterday, and Daniel O. Bellow, a former Eagle reporter, has resigned from his job in the Troy, N.Y., bureau of the Daily Gazette of Schenectady, N.Y., to be Hodgkins' press secretary.

Before both the Pittsfield and Lee audiences, he deplored GE's transfer of 80 percent of its ar- rester operation to Puerto Rico and the remainder to two locations in the United States.

"The corporate spokesmen call it out-sourcing," he said in Lee. "They out-sourced about 1,500 families."

As the youngest of five children in a single-parent family, Hodgkins, 33, said he knows what the availability of opportunities can mean because "I am here because of it." Opportunities enabled him to attend Berkshire Community College and the University of Massachusetts, he said. Before running for public office, he was a police officer, teacher and emergency medical technician.

The representative to the Legislature from the 4th Berkshire District blamed the federal government for failing to invest in its most valuable resource — people — for ignoring health care for the elderly and for not providing for the future of children.

"Instead, the rich got richer, and the poor and middle class got poorer," Hodgkins said. "The richest 1 per cent in this country receive almost as much income after taxes as the bottom 40 per cent on the socioeconomic ladder," he said.

Ways to stimulate

He said that to stimulate the economy he intends to focus on such depleted and neglected programs as revenue sharing, economic development, job training and housing assistance.

He mentioned government military contracts awarded to GE through Conte's efforts and said he would continue such efforts if elected to Congress.

Wildcats tested in 66-58 victory

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

SPRINGFIELD — Lee High's dream of a third straight Division 3 girls' basketball title nearly ended at Cathedral High last night when the whirlwind play of Lunenburg guard Marcia Price, who had a game-high 29 points, almost put a finish to the Wildcats' perfect season.

Division 3 Girls

But Lee's three seniors — Jessie McManmon, Shannon Driscoll and Michele Naventi — kept the dream alive by responding with all but four of the team's 37 second-half points, lifting the Wildcats to a 66-58 victory and into the state Division 3 title contest.

"The seniors on our team tried hard tonight," said Driscoll, who helped rally her team from an unaccustomed 31-29 halftime deficit. "We want to three-peat."

The Wildcats will play for the state championship at the Worcester Centrum at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday against the winner of today's game between Boston-North champion Notre Dame of Tyngsboro and Boston-South champion Seekonk. Lee defeated Seekonk in last year's championship game 54-34.

Lee is now 24-0 and has a 32-game winning streak that extends back to last season. Lunenburg, which captured the Central Mass. crown, finished the year at 18-7.

"We knew what had to be done in a close game," said McManmon, who had a season-best 26 points and outscored Price 17-15 in the first half. "We knew what to do even though we haven't had that many [close games]. The seniors, though, pulled together in this game."

Naventi loosens defense

Naventi, who was scoreless in the first half, keyed the second-half run by drilling six outside jumpers that helped loosen up the tenacious Blue Knights' defense being played down low on McManmon and Driscoll.

"I'm surprised I kept taking those shots," said Naventi, after her scoreless first half. "All season long people have been telling me to shoot more. Tonight, I did."

Price scored the Blue Knights' final 14 points. But it was Naventi, who had some help from guard

(LEE, continued on D8
Continuance missing)



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lunenburg's Robin Bertram, left, is not letting this rebound get away despite the efforts of Lee's Katie Cinella (No. 10) and Jessie McManmon (No. 25) in last night's Division 3 state semifinal game at Cathedral High. McManmon had a team-high 26 points in the Wildcats' 66-58 victory.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

State finalists

The Lee High girls' basketball team has already won Berkshire County and Western Mass. titles, and will seek its third straight state Division 3 championship this morning in Worcester. Team members are, from left: KNEELING — Manager Kasey McManmon, Kelsey Scarpa, Sheila Collins, Dina Souza, A.J. Skowron, Jen Baker, Lee Brig-

henti, Allison Forfa and Sharon Heath. STANDING — Assistant coaches Chris Coons and Peter Cinella, manager Kate Salinetti, Jenn Finnegan, tri-captains Michele Naventi, Shannon Driscoll and Jessie McManmon, Kate Cinella, head coach Tom Cinella, assistant coach Jim Feeley and manager Michelle Kennedy.

Lee girls go for 3rd straight state title

■ LEE, from D1
played this year."

Senior forwards Jessie McManmon and Michele Naventi were receiving quality minutes two years ago when the Wildcats captured their first state title against Norwell. Now, with a chance to end their scholastic basketball careers as three-time winners, the two players reflected on the enormous success that the program has enjoyed.

"Three straight would be very difficult for any team to match," said McManmon, who scored a season-high 26 points in the Wildcats' 66-58 semifinal win over Lunenburg. "Much of what we were able to accomplish may not dawn on us until we're out of high school."

"But the chemistry on this team is perfect this year. Last year, there was no pressure. We had done it once and no one was really expecting a repeat. This year might be the toughest of the three to pull off. Every team has been really up for us, and when you're on top it's awfully hard to stay there."

The Lee girls are the only

Berkshire County basketball program, boys or girls, to win as many as two state titles.

Naventi said that a third title would be every bit as special as the first two.

"After last season I thought we would have a good chance to win again this year," Naventi said. "But I still can't believe we're undefeated. And it may not be until next year that we realize what we've done."

Today's opponent

The final hurdle for the Wildcats is Notre Dame, a surprise 50-39 semifinal winner Wednesday afternoon over defending Eastern Mass. champion Seekonk. Lee had defeated Seekonk 54-34 in last year's state championship game.

Notre Dame coach Mike O'Brien bristled at the suggestion that his Lancers' victory over Seekonk was viewed as an upset by those following the tournament closely.

"We've been to five Eastern Mass. championships and won twice in the eight years I've coached at Notre Dame," said

O'Brien, who last won an Eastern Mass. title in 1986, but lost in the state final to Quaboag. "And we've only lost about 21 games in that entire time. That isn't too bad, is it?"

Lee faces twin towers

Lee refuses to enter today's game with any sense of overconfidence, especially against a Lancers team that features a 6-foot-1 junior center and a 6-foot sophomore forward. Add a pair of senior guards and it becomes obvious why the Wildcats are expecting a big-time battle.

Cinella, however, indicated that the Lee team is well-prepared. The Wildcats have successfully scrimmaged teams this year that have big frontcourt players. Those teams include Southwick, which features 6-foot-4 center Rebecca Lobo, and Longmeadow, whose center is 6-foot-1 Tammy Butler.

"We're going to try and beat Notre Dame down the court," Cinella said. "And I don't think they can play us man-to-man. If Notre Dame is going to cover man-to-man in the post I think they're in trouble."

But that's exactly what Notre Dame coach O'Brien plans to do.

"We're not going to double up," said O'Brien, who has not seen Lee play this year and is relying on scouting reports he has received. "We might show some zone, but I'm going to let the kids go one-on-one."

"I've heard about Lee's full-court press," O'Brien added. "But we've got two senior guards who can run the court. I'm not going to change much. We've got to 21-0 just doing the things we've done all year."

The battle in the pivot will pit Lee's 6-foot-1 Shannon Driscoll against 6-foot-1 Liz Davies (20 ppg.) of Notre Dame. Davies had 15 points and 14 rebounds in the Lancers' win over Seekonk.

McManmon, who is 5-feet-10, will have to cope with 6-foot forward Georgina Robinson, who averages 10 points and 10 rebounds per game. The remaining Lancer starters include 5-foot-8 forward Nicole Altobelli (10 ppg.) and guards Jen Miller (5-feet-4) and Julie Hunt (5-feet-7).

McManmon's under-the-basket battle with Robinson could evolve as a key to the game.

"She's a stocky kid with some muscle," said O'Brien of Robinson. "Georgina's a very physical player."

Naventi will play the small forward position for Lee while point guard Katie Cinella and shooting guard Jen Finnegan make up the backcourt. Forwards Sheila Collins and Allison Forfa join guards A.J. Skowron and Dina Souza among the first players off the bench.

Lee isn't worried about facing an unknown such as Notre Dame instead of the more familiar Seekonk squad, according to Naventi.

"We hadn't seen Seekonk prior to last year's game," Naventi said. "We're not worried about it."

DEP to test oil in well to find source

55.

Eagle By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff 3.15.91

LEE — The state Department of Environmental Protection says that a film of oil in an unused well on Maple Street is fuel oil and that additional tests will be conducted to determine if it's from an old spill or a current one.

Robert Terrenzi, an inspector in the emergency response section of DEP's Springfield office, said it could take another month or so to arrive at a conclusion about this, but if the oil is from a current spill or leak, the cleanup would take longer than that and would likely be expensive.

The DEP is conducting the tests at the request of Lee officials. It is one of the latest developments in a 4-month-old dispute between various residents and Lee Oil Co., which owns a fuel terminal on Maple Street just uphill from the well.

Another part of the dispute concerns a license to allow Lee Oil to park a propane tank truck at the same terminal. But this has been held up pending issuance of a use permit by the fire chief and an answer from the state fire marshal to an appeal by a nearby Maple Street homeowner.

Meanwhile, the DEP, in addition to conducting tests at the well, has advised the oil company to clean up a small spill of oil at the terminal where trucks load up, said Terrenzi. He said William F. Miller, owner of the oil company, has already begun this cleanup and is being encouraged in addition to pave and dike the loading area or otherwise improve spill control there.

The well is on the property of Rodney and Christine Clark at 480 Maple St. Home heating oil from a spill at the adjacent terminal in the winter of 1985 ran into the Clarks' front yard, and town workers dumped sand on it to soak it up.

The oil in the well could be from that spill, said Clark and Terrenzi separately yesterday.

If it isn't and instead is found to be from ongoing seepage into the ground water, "then we could have a problem," said Terrenzi. "We might have to get in a state contractor to investigate and find the source."

In the eyes of Maple Street residents, the obvious source would be the Lee Oil terminal, although owner Miller is asking that Western Mass. Electric Co., which maintains a substation on

the other side of the terminal, be tested for possible transformer-oil spills as well.

Boom installed

A week and a half ago, Terrenzi inserted an absorbent boom into the Clarks' well, a sausage shaped device about 10 feet long and 6 inches in diameter designed to absorb oil but not water. He and Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter Kolodziej will return Wednesday to remove it and to take more water samples for testing at the state laboratory in Lawrence.

Additional samples will be taken two to three weeks after that, said Terrenzi, all designed to indicate if the oil is gone or is still entering the well.

Clark said all of this is loosely related to neighborhood opposition to the storage of propane at the site. "Historically, the owners [of Lee Oil] haven't shown a lot of

responsibility," he said. If the company doesn't handle fuel oil properly, it casts doubt on its handling of propane, he suggested.

Propane, which is stored and transported as a liquid under pressure, is heavier than air when it vaporizes, Clark observed. "Hypothetically, if some of it spilled into our cellar and the furnace kicked on," he said, "we'd be on the space shuttle."

Oak n' Spruce goes into Chapter 11

Eagle By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff 3.13.91

LEE — The Oak n' Spruce resort has filed for Chapter 11 protection under the bankruptcy laws and in the meantime continues to operate while a reorganization plan is developed. The resort has had financial difficulties for the last couple of years.

"If we had had a good winter we might have been able to pull through because of income derived from our cross country skiing operation — but the trails

were only open for one day," Paul J. DiCroce, general manager of the 41-year-old resort, said yesterday.

"We had cancellations for both the Christmas and February vacation weeks," he said. "The weather was so bad that even the owners of time shares did not show up for their weeks."

He said that 23 people are on the payroll and that "nobody is being laid off, no doors are closing, and we continue to meet our commitments on bookings."

Frank D. Kirby, the Boston attorney representing Oak n' Spruce's parent company, Diversified Resorts, said that a second major factor complicating the resort's finances was the failure of First Atlantic Savings & Loan Association of Plainfield, N.J. The bank had loaned the resort \$2.6 million in October 1986 for an expansion that included a health club, a 200-seat dining room and 48 hotel rooms.

The bank failed in February 1990 and was taken over by the

Resolution Trust Corp., the government agency charged with resolving the savings and loan crisis.

"Essentially the resort is in good shape," said Kirby, "but as a result of the RTC takeover it could not get the financing it needed."

Kirby said there will be a creditors' meeting on March 22 at 1:15 p.m. in Room 108 of the Federal Building in Springfield when the resort's financial picture will be presented and creditors can file claims.

Wildcat girls go for third Div. 3 crown

Eagle By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff 3.16.91

The Lee High girls' basketball team is looking to join some pretty fast company this morning when the Wildcats play Notre Dame Academy of Tyngsboro for the state Division 3 title at the Worcester Centrum at 10:45.

The Wildcats, who are 24-0 and have a 32-game winning streak that covers the past two seasons, hope to become the first Division 3 team to capture three straight titles. Notre Dame, which won the Catholic Suburban League and is in its second state title contest, is also undefeated at 21-0.

Only Hampshire Regional girls' teams of the late 1970s have a greater history than what the Wildcats are striving for today. Hampshire won the state title in 1975 when there was no divisional play, and won subsequent Division 2 championships from 1976 through 1978.

"My kids aren't saying that they're just happy to be playing in this game," Lee coach Tom Cinella said. "They've stayed focused and I know they want this game as much as any they have

LEE, continued on D10

Campaign '91

Massimiano endorses Hodgkins

PITTSFIELD — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins of Lee, a candidate for the congressional seat left vacant by the death of Silvio O. Conte, yesterday picked up the endorsement of one of Berkshire County's influential Democrats.

County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano, who some thought might join the wide-open race for Conte's seat, yesterday announced he will throw his support behind Hodgkins.

"Chris is our best hope for our county to keep that seat in Congress," said Massimiano. "We'll be sending someone who will be a fighter."

Massimiano vowed "to go all over Berkshire County and the whole district" on behalf of Hodgkins.

Hodgkins, who met with Massimiano in his office at the county jail in Pittsfield, expressed gratitude for his support. He said he would not have bothered to run for the congressional seat if Massimiano had decided to.

Hodgkins also picked up two more endorsements yesterday, from Michael Kogut, a former assistant state attorney general and assistant district attorney in Worcester County, and from three-term Democratic state Rep. Patrick F. Landers of Palmer.

Landers said he chose to back Hodgkins because of his commitment to small towns and the environment.

Kogut described Hodgkins as a "personable and dynamic politician. ... He can rise above the fray and distinguish himself."

On the Republican side, Massimiano said he believes Donald A. Thurston of Clarksburg could come out strong in the primaries.

Thurston is a well-connected moderate Republican who has the support of Conte's wife, Corinne Conte. The other major candidate is Steven D. Pierce, who failed in his bid for governor last fall.

Century Cable adds phone lines

LEE — Century Berkshire Cable TV has installed a new telephone system at its office. The new system includes additional inbound lines for subscribers.

"This should make reaching our customer service department much easier than it has been in the past," said Philip Hopkins, general manager of the system. "We will be closely monitoring the system to be sure that it is adequately meeting the volume of incoming calls from our subscribers. We believe it will be a great enhancement to our service."

The new system will also have a digital message feature which can be used for a variety of purposes, including announcements to subscribers of any system problems that might occur and estimated times of repair.

As part of this overall upgrade of the system, customers need only call 243-0676, since the 243 exchange is now a local call for people in the 528 calling area. All incoming calls on 243-0676 will automatically search for the next available line. This is the only number subscribers need for repairs, customer service or billing questions.

For subscribers in Housatonic and other locations outside the Lee calling area, an 800 number is being installed to provide subscribers with toll-free access to Century's office in Lee. That number is 1-800-464-0676.

Opponents, ticket sales set for Lee, Wahconah

The Lee girls will play Notre Dame of Tyngsboro and the Wahconah boys will play Sharon High on Saturday in state high school basketball championship games.

That was determined last night, when Notre Dame beat 1990 state finalist Seekonk 50-39 in the Eastern Mass. Division 3 girls' final, and Sharon (24-1) knocked off Acton-Boxboro 77-74 in the Eastern Mass. Division 2 boys' final.

The Lee-Notre Dame game shapes up as a battle of unbeaten, as Lee enters the game 24-0 and Notre Dame comes in 21-0.

All state finals will be at the Centrum in Worcester, with the Division 3 girls playing at 10:45 and the Division 2 boys at 4.

Both Wahconah and Lee have set up discount ticket sales today and tomorrow.

Tickets will be on sale in the main lobby at Wahconah both days from 8 to 3 and in the main office at Lee High today from noon to 3 and tomorrow from 10 to 2.

Tickets cost \$5 in advance but will be \$7 at the Centrum.

Fan buses are also being organized at both schools.

Lee girls make it 3 straight, 55-36

More good Lee news

Schmidinger 9th in World Cup downhill race

VAIL, Colo. — Yesterday was just one of those days for female athletes from Lee.

While the girls' basketball team was chalking up its third straight state title, 20-year-old Krista Schmidinger of Lee posted her first top-10 finish ever in a World Cup ski race, placing ninth in a downhill here.

Switzerland's Chantal Bournissen captured the women's World Cup downhill title, winning her second downhill race of the season.

Bournissen, who came into the season's final downhill with an eight-point lead over Austria's Sabine Ginther in the downhill standings, was timed in 1 minute, 42.89 seconds.

Austrian Anja Haas finished second in 1:43.09, and Ginther, who had won the last two downhill, placed third in 1:43.22.

Edith Thys of Olympic Valley, Calif., led the U.S. team that placed four skiers in the top 15 for the second straight day. Thys was fourth in 1:43.33 — her best career finish in a downhill race.

Other Americans in the top 15 were Schmidinger, ninth in 1:43.86; Hilary Lindh of Juneau, Alaska, 10th in 1:44.02, and Kristin Krone of Truckee, Calif., 12th in 1:44.09.

Schmidinger and Heidi Voelker will be skiing close to home this week when the World Cup season concludes at Waterville Valley, N.H., with a giant slalom Wednesday and a dual slalom competition next Saturday and Sunday.

In Lake Louise, Alberta, yesterday, Franz Heinzer of Switzerland, a day after clinching his first World Cup title, won the downhill finale.

Notre Dame no match in state Div. 3 final

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

WORCESTER — Can you say "three-peat"? The Lee High girls' basketball team can.

The Wildcats nailed down their third consecutive Division 3 state title yesterday, dispatching Notre Dame of Tyngsboro 55-36 at the Worcester Centrum.

Wildcat center Shannon Driscoll and forward Jessie McMannon keyed the victory by winning a physical war in the paint against the Lancers' Twin Towers — 6-foot center Elizabeth Davies and 5-foot-11 forward Georgiana Richardson.

Driscoll finished with a game-high 20 points and 13 rebounds while McMannon had 17 points and six boards. Driscoll also did a nice job intimidating the Tyngsboro shooters, registering five blocked shots.

"Since the beginning of the year we've had a lot of goals," said Driscoll, who with senior teammates McMannon and Michele Naventi was playing her final basketball game in a Lee uniform. "Winning this game was one of the biggest goals that we had. It's a great way to end a career."

Many of the Wildcat fans held up placards that read "three-peat," and the Lee team thrust three fingers into the air amid the pandemonium on the floor when the game was completed.

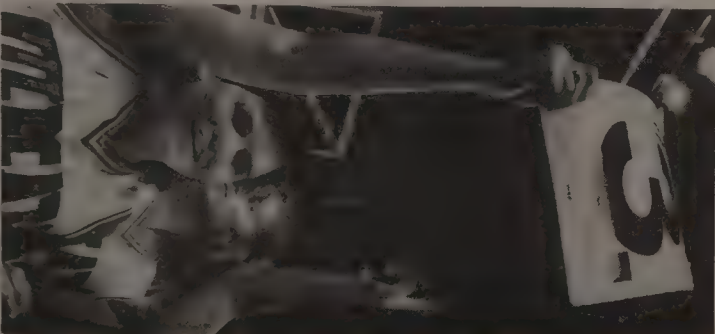
The Wildcats completed the season 25-0 and own a 33-game winning streak that dates back to last season. During its three-year run to the top of Division 3, Lee has posted an overall 67-6 record. Notre Dame, the Eastern Mass. champion, suffered its first defeat following 21 straight wins.

"Give the credit to my players," said elated Lee coach Tom Cinella. "Their knowledge of basketball has improved each year."

Three not enough?

Wildcat point guard Katie Cinella addressed the goal-oriented season.

"We had about eight different



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff
Michele Naventi!

Celebrating Lee's three-peat

goals this year," she said. "Things like winning our scrimmages, making the tournament. We got down to just a few games left and we added one last goal — and that was to go undefeated."

Katie Cinella, during the post-game celebration, wasted no time sending a signal about Lee's chances next year.

"I don't know if you saw me," Katie said. "I was holding up four fingers."

Tom Cinella, Katie's father, refused to look that far ahead.

"I just want to enjoy this moment with the kids," said Cinella, after taking a deep breath.

McMannon, who had been a tower of strength throughout the postseason tournament run, felt satisfied with yesterday's outcome and the season in general.

LEE, continued on C2



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Making the steal is Lee guard Katie Cinella, who gets the ball away from Notre Dame's Nichole Allobello during yesterday's state Division 3 basketball final. Lee won third straight title, 55-36.

Lee girls win third state title

■ LEE, from C1

3.17.91

"It wasn't one of our better games," she said. "But we played hard. Tomorrow we'll probably talk about the game and it will dawn on us what happened. Right now it feels like just another game."

"I felt more responsible this year," McManmon said. "I felt as though the seniors really had a hand in keeping the team together."

Tom Cinella agreed: "Every year the chemistry on this team has been good. This year we brought back tremendous experience and we had solid upper-classmen leadership."

Lee overcomes turnovers

Lee turned the ball over more than Notre Dame (26-23), but the difference was the Wildcats' shot selection and their usual tenacious defense. Lee shot 45 percent (23 of 51) while the Lancers were held to a lackluster 21 percent from the floor, including a horrendous 4-of-26 second-half performance that negated any come-from-behind hopes.

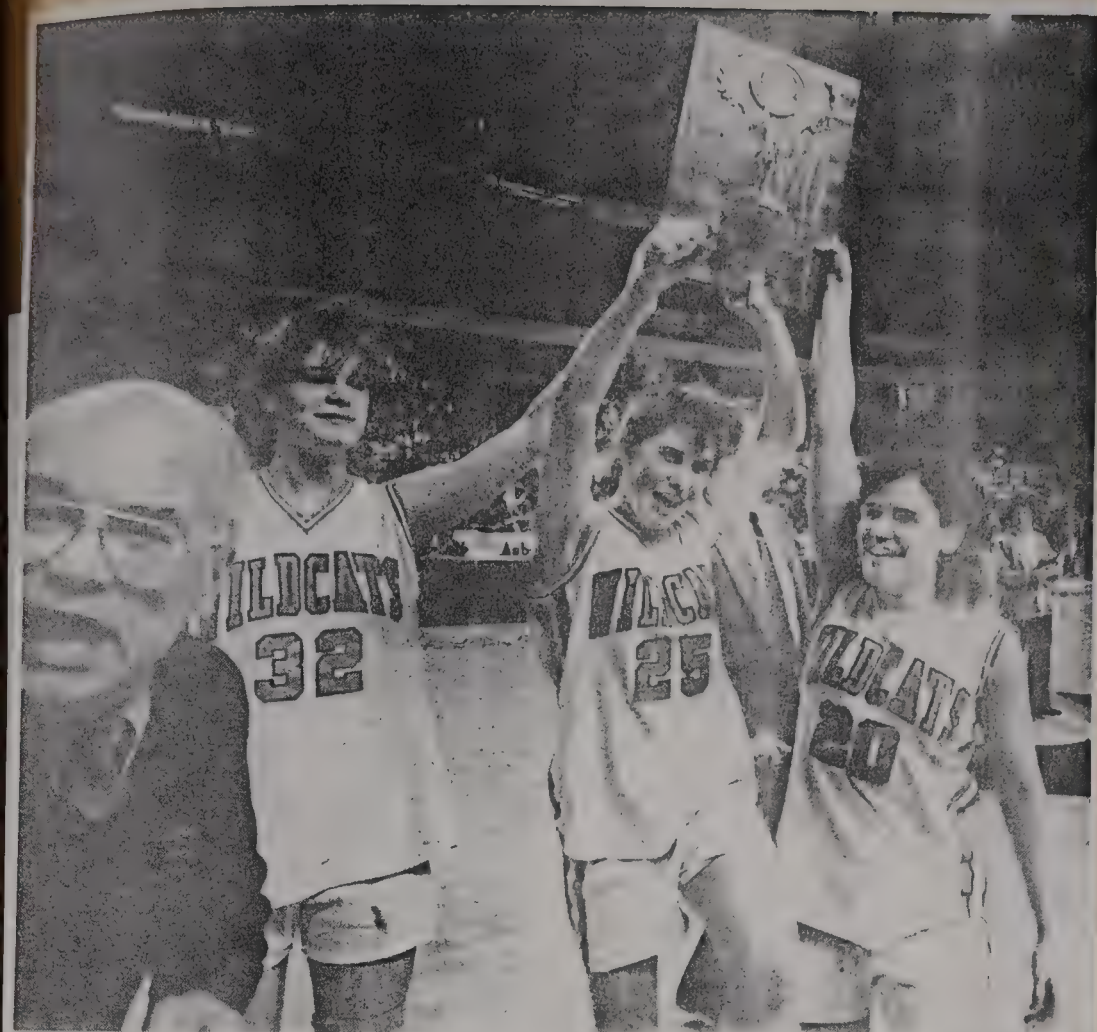
"We've had a couple games this year where we've seen defensive pressure like Lee's," Notre Dame coach Michael O'Brien said. "I thought we handled it pretty well today. A lot of times, though, we got the ball to halfcourt and threw it away."

"It could very well have been that we were tired. We only go six or seven deep. But I'm not making excuses — we didn't play as well as we could. We missed some foul shots, and if we had made them it's a much closer game."

A Katie Cinella jumper gave Lee an early 8-2 lead. Notre Dame, however, rallied to cut the score to 12-9 when Davies scored a hoop and Stacey Seidewand converted three of four foul shots.

The Wildcats then turned up the defensive heat with about seven minutes left in the half, scoring 10 straight points over a two-minute span. Driscoll delivered two baskets from the low post, and after a Cinella steal, McManmon converted a layup to make the score 18-9. Driscoll scored twice more to complete the run and give Lee a 22-9 advantage.

Naventi (seven assists, five rebounds) scored off a steal to give the Wildcats their biggest first-half lead, 28-13. But the Lancers outscored Lee 6-3 in the final two minutes to trail 31-19 at halftime.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Well-earned state championship trophy is hoisted by Lee seniors Shannon Driscoll (32), Jessie McManmon (25) and Michele Naventi (20) as coach Tom Cinella looks on following yesterday's 55-36 win over Notre Dame of Tyngsboro.

Eagle 3.17.91

Doing the three-peat



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Wildcats go wild

Eagle 3.17.91

Lee High players celebrate the closing moments of yesterday's 55-36 victory over Notre Dame of Tyngsboro, which gave the Wildcats their third straight Division 3 basketball title. Cheering, from left, are Michele Naventi, Jennifer Finnegan, Katie Cinella, Shannon Driscoll, Jessie McManmon and Dina Souza. Story, other photos on Page C1.

Our children

Eagle 3.16.91

DALTON

Dr. Barbara Bascom, an American pediatrician working in Romania, told the saddest tale last Tuesday on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." She explained how frightened toddlers cowered in their cribs, holding their hands over their heads, when she approached, and how others, who seemed awfully quiet for 2-year-olds, turned out to be malnourished 4-and 5-year-olds. It wasn't just the deplorable situation there that really got to me; it was the ominous parallel to our own culture.

Many of the estimated 40,000 children institutionalized in Romania aren't orphans. Under the dictator Ceausescu, who ruled for 23 years until Christmas Day, 1989, Romania had one of the lowest standards of living in Eastern Europe. During that time women bore many children, with no birth control or abortions available. Families couldn't feed them all, so those who were weak, or the fourth and fifth arrival in an overburdened family, were abandoned.

About a week ago Vincent Lombardo and Helen Sohn-Lombardo of Lee left for Romania with hopes of adopting two babies from a family with more than they can feed. Before leaving, they amassed hundreds of diapers, enough food for a month, and gifts like pantyhose, cigarette lighters and office supplies. They also carried a huge pile of official papers, notarized twice. If their plans with a Minnesota agency pan out, they'll be sending a stipend back to Romania to feed the rest of the family, in addition to offering a new life to the two children they adopt. The day before leaving, Lombardo added to the graffiti on a construction wall in the Lee Town Clerk's office: "We're Adoption Bound, Wish Us Luck."

Unfortunately, the older children in institutions aren't all adoptable. Many have handicaps that, without physical therapy, have turned into deformities. Some have acquired AIDS from the outdated practice of giving blood transfusions to combat malnutrition. Few have gotten any first-hand nurturing or toys. Although the child-to-adult ratio in these institutions is no longer 40 to 1; it's still 20 to 1 in many institutions.

Over the past 25 years, many of these unwanted children died before growing up. Some have become crusaders against what they faced. Many are criminals or have joined extremist military factions. Bascom tells of watching one survivor in a uniform beat a pregnant protester with no emotion or remorse whatsoever on his face.

It's easier to think about this as a distant cruelty than as a specter on our own horizon. Although we don't have 40,000 deserted children here, we do have crack mothers who abandon their babies, and AIDS babies with no parents able to care for them. Recent technological innovations in birth control and abortion have become hot political issues, instead of effective measures to prevent those who don't want and can't take care of babies from having them.

In most parts of this country, it is much more difficult to get a safe, legal abortion than it was 10 or 20 years ago because extremist groups have pressured gynecologists, clinics and hospitals until many have stopped giving any.

Many called the 1980s a "terrible decade" for our own country's children. The proportion of children living in poverty rose from 16 percent in 1979 to 20.1 percent in 1989. A larger percentage of children went to jail in the '80s, and more teens died and gave birth than before. Meanwhile, our infant death rate became higher than in the five other major industrialized nations, despite our technological capabilities.

Even though economics alone tells us that spending about \$800 for total prenatal care for a young, poor woman is much more reasonable than spending more than \$1,000 a day to care for her premature baby, we still don't want to spend the money.

Social programs like counseling, education, abuse prevention, nutrition and housing, which directly affect children, have been compromised more than their fair share as federal, state and local funds have dried up over the past decade. We are still a country where crimes against our own young are less important than crimes against property.

I watch my teen-age students strut by with that lackadaisical moodiness that will soon transform them into adults. I'm thankful for the solid nurturing most of them have received and can only hope that the next generation will be more lucky, not less.

C.D. Nelsen teaches English at Lee High School and lives in Dalton.

Readers grateful for war coverage

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

We are writing to thank The Eagle for so fairly presenting the views of both the supporters and the opponents of the war in the Persian Gulf in your coverage of this historic event.

As citizens who opposed the war against Iraq, we appreciate your newspaper's courageous stand in giving its readers such a rich diversity of opinion, not only in the editorials, but also in the letters to the editor and articles on the op-ed page.

The Eagle's enlightened policy of publishing unpopular as well as popular views is in the best tradition of a free press in a free society

BARBARA BARTLE

Lee

This letter was also signed by 13 other members of St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge.

A worthy successor to Conte

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

When I first came to the western part of the state, I called Congressman Silvio Conte's office on many occasions. His staff was always very helpful and treated me warmly and I got the help I needed. I will miss this man and I am sure a lot of others will, too.

After about a year of living here and dealing with a lot of financial issues with his help, I found myself having to deal with many other problems. I am an alcoholic and addict, and I put myself through 25 years of pain and misery. The thing I learned most through all this was that I needed help from all sorts of people. When I finally admitted I needed help, I humbled myself and reached out and found it.

I do a lot of 12-step programs and now feel very good about myself. I am now a responsible and productive member of society. But I needed some important people to believe in me, and that was hard to find.

One day I was directed to a state representative's office. Feeling like no one cared about my escape from the depths of hell, I found one of the biggest surprises of my life — a man who cared. After meeting and talking with him for a short time, I realized that the system works. I found a warm, considerate and compassionate man who knows how to talk about real problems and real solutions and talked about these things with feeling and emotion, which I never thought possible in a politician. This man made me a believer in America and the American way. He helped me feel a new freedom I never thought possible.

For this, I pledge my vote and all the support I can give him should he decide to run for Congress. That person is Sherwood Guernsey.

CHESTER SEARS

264 Main St.
Lee

Wildcats' Irish lass peaks just in time for St. Patrick's Day

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

WORCESTER — Notre Dame of Tyngsboro girls' basketball coach Mike O'Brien was hoping for a bit of Irish luck yesterday prior to meeting Lee in the Division 3 state title game at the Worcester Centrum. O'Brien, which is a wonderful Irish name, probably figured things would go his way with St. Patrick's Day just a day away.

Shannon Driscoll, however, is another wonderful sounding Irish name. And Lee's 6-foot-1 senior center ended up having more to say about the outcome of the game with her play on the floor than O'Brien was able to conjure up on the Tyngsboro bench.

Lee won its third straight Division 3 championship with a convincing 55-36 win over the Lancers. Driscoll led the Wildcats with a game-high 20 points while adding 13 rebounds and five blocks.

The Lee center fouled out with 54 seconds left in the game, but it didn't really matter. Lee coach Tom Cinella, in fact, took out all his starters at that point. And the celebration started shortly after, as the Wildcats capped a 25-0 season with a third straight division title.

"Driscoll helped balance the O'Brien factor," Cinella said with a smile after yesterday's victory.

Driscoll peaks for tourney

Driscoll watchers — and they have been increasing in numbers throughout the Lee postseason — had to like what they saw early in yesterday's game. Lately, as Driscoll goes, so go the Wildcats. And Driscoll's 14-point, 7-rebound first-half performance helped Lee forge a 31-19 lead that would not be challenged.

Driscoll helped set the tone with superlative play in the opening three minutes. After winning the tap that eventually led to a Jen Finnegan jump shot, Driscoll rejected the Lancers' 6-foot center Elizabeth Davies on a drive to the basket.

Notre Dame misfired on its next possession, and it was Driscoll who pulled down the rebound and started the fast break that ended with a Jessie McManmon hoop. Driscoll added a pair of blocks in the next two minutes, as the Wildcats extended their lead to 10-4. Driscoll then scored 12 of Lee's next 14 points to help build a 24-11 lead.

"The main thing is to play defense," Driscoll said. "If you play good defense the good shots at the other end will come."

Driscoll, unlike many of the other Lee players, didn't begin to think about playing serious basketball until she was in her early teens.

"I was in the seventh grade," she said. "And my father asked if I was interested in playing. All my other friends were already playing."

Frustrated at first because of a lack of fundamentals, Driscoll began to catch up with her peers in ability and grew to enjoy the game.

"The more I played the more I liked it," Driscoll said. "But never thought it would turn out like this."

Driscoll's "this" surely is reference to her strong play during the regular season, where she averaged 15.7 points per game, fourth best in Berkshire County. But Driscoll really cut loose in the postseason.

She had 23 points in Lee's 61-5 win over Taconic that clinched the team's first Berkshire County championship. Sixteen points and 12 rebounds followed in a 77-4 Western Mass. quarterfinal win over Smith Academy. Then came 25 points and nine rebounds against league rival Lenox in the Western Mass. semifinals.

Driscoll helped bury Frontier 73-28 in the Western Mass. championship game with 30 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks. A 16-point effort helped Lee get past Lunenburg in the state semifinals, 66-58.

"Shannon started out the season not confident with her shot," said teammate Jessie McManmon, who often teamed with Driscoll in the battles beneath the basket. "But we pushed her — told her to stay in there and play tough with the post players. We tried to boost her confidence up."

It worked. And the result helped improve McManmon's game.

"We didn't really compete for points in the post," McManmon said. "I'm more a transition-type player. I think two post players often get in each other's way. Shannon and I really worked well together."

Driscoll would like to continue her game at the college level, although her plans aren't final yet. Work habits aren't a problem. While many of the Lee players were involved with the soccer season during the fall, Driscoll was playing hoops in a league in Pittsfield.

"I was just trying to get in shape and work on my basics," Driscoll said. "And they've gotten better."

Hard work and raw talent is a tough combination for any team to beat. And the leprechauns at the Worcester Centrum yesterday were no doubt hidden among the Lee faithful.

Tyngsboro's O'Brien never had a chance.

War leads to war

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Was the Mideast war a victory to the thousands it mutilated and murdered? What "won" were war and its conspirators, ignorance and death.

Victory for our species would have been non-violent negotiations getting Iraq out of Kuwait. That could have happened. Why didn't it?

This war made the next one more likely. There were no victors — only victims.

*TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee

Ask the Kuwaitis

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Mr. Rosenberg [Letters, March 7] should ask the men, women and children of Kuwait, who were brutally beaten, raped and killed by Saddam Hussein, if this war was really necessary. He might ask the Israelis too.

RICHARD RETZEL

East Center Street
Lee

3.19.91



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

The All-Berkshire girls' alpine skiing first team includes, front row: Jennifer Coan, Lizbie Sawyer and Andrea Barbalunga of Pittsfield. Second row: Mandy Lahey of Lee,

Tanya Goclawski of St. Joseph's and Jessica Dugan of Lenox. The Generals' Sawyer was the league's top point producer.

Eagle 3.18.91



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

The All-Berkshire boys' alpine skiing first team includes, front row: Paul Miller of Pittsfield, Stephen Boyd of Monument Mountain, Matt Clark of Lee. Second row: Matt

Loehr of Wahconah, Ryan O'Donnell of Pittsfield and Sean Dugan of Lenox. Dugan was the league's top scorer during the season.

May others benefit as our daughter did

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

We were extremely dismayed to read of the recent reduction in service authorized at the Berkshire Medical Center Special Care Nursery (Eagle, March 3).

Our daughter experienced severe meconium aspiration at birth (September 1989), a situation totally unexpected until the last couple hours of labor, and she needed the emergency care of the nursery's ventilator and personnel. The care shown by the staff and the proximity of the nursery did much to alleviate our anxiety over the three weeks she was treated at BMC.

Our daughter is now a happy and healthy 18-month-old. It would be a shame if other parents were deprived of this service because of some bureaucratic technicality.

Give back the BMC Special Care Nursery ventilators.

MARYANN FITZHUGH
CHARLES FITZHUGH

Lee

3.19.91

Lee strains to avoid massive override

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — If the town's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 should match the sums aired by Selectmen and other town officials Monday night, Lee voters will be asked to approve their first override of Proposition 2½ at the annual town meeting in May.

And the override figure would be a whopper: \$931,381, or the equivalent of a \$2.35 increase, or nearly 20 percent, in the tax rate, which is currently \$12 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

But hold on, folks, it's not going to happen quite that way. Members of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance and Capital Outlay committees want to comb the various departmental and related budget requests over the next couple of weeks to cut, if not eliminate, the amount over the levy limit.

At the moment, the bottom line for town expenditures in fiscal 1992 is \$9.3 million, up 4.7 percent from this year's \$8.88 million. But already some of that increase has been reduced by virtue of a Board of Public Works decision to remove some \$500,000 in requests from the town meeting warrant.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask says the override

may end up between \$200,000 and \$600,000.

The Selectmen and Finance and Capital Outlay boards conducted their first joint review of budget requests Monday and found that, what with state financial aid and local receipts going down as local expenses and capital needs go up, the amount to be raised through real estate taxation will have to rise by a substantially greater amount than it did a year ago.

Foreseeing this, the Selectmen last fall called on all town departments to level-fund their budgets. Although some departments complied, most did not, largely because of yearly pay raises for employees.

The Lee Employees Association, for example, negotiated a 3 percent pay raise for the coming year, and the increases will show up in various departmental line items. The Police Department has not increased its salaries, but the public school teachers are negotiating with the School Committee for a new contract whose impact has not yet been factored into the budget.

Even without the teachers' salaries, the school budget is up about 3.25 percent, from \$4.17 million to \$4.3 million.

TRIMMING, continued on B4

Lee officials struggle to avoid huge override

■ TRIMMING, from B1

While Selectmen have spoken of level funding, Trask talked yesterday of level services, which is a bit different.

Speaking of the need for additional discussion of budget items, he said, "We want to look realistically at what it will take to run the town with existing services intact. But that's not necessarily level funding, it's level services, and we estimate we will need between \$200,000 and \$600,000 in an override."

Special articles

Trask observed that the special articles proposed for the town meeting warrant — everything from \$250 for a lawn mower for the town beach to \$320,000 for bridge repair — total \$1.7 million. "We expect about \$700,000 of that on the warrant," he said.

John E. DeVarennes, chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee who also happens to be a member of the Finance Committee, will bring a capital-outlay perspective to the latter's coming deliberations Monday night, Trask said.

Even if no department sought pay increases for its employees, some expenses would rise anyway, the preliminary warrant indicates. Insurance, for one example, is slated to go up slightly more than \$100,000, from \$725,906 to \$826,657. For another, street-light costs are slated to rise, from \$37,000 to \$46,000.

At the same time, a few costs

are dropping, like debt and interest, from \$598,972 to \$568,786.

But local aid is declining as well. Although cherry sheets, the documents that set forth local aid and assessments, have not been distributed, the state Department of Revenue has sent out memorandums with most of the information, and Lee at the moment stands to lose \$14,219.

Decline in incomplete

Since the data are incomplete, it could lose more. Local aid this year is expected to come to \$1.77 million. Local receipts are also expected to drop, from \$1.68 million to \$1.66 million.

"The way the picture is being painted by the state," said Selectman William D. Bean, "it's going to get a lot worse before it gets any better."

He agreed with Trask that support at the annual town meeting, which is scheduled for May 9, "comes down to whether townspeople want [existing] services or not."

Band concert boosts Bernardo reward fund

LEE — Judging from the attendance at a Sunday fund-raiser, a lot of people haven't forgotten about James E. Bernardo, the 12-year-old Pittsfield boy whose murder last fall remains unsolved despite months of investigation.

Between 550 and 600 people showed up at a five-band event held at Woody's Roadhouse in Washington, and their attendance resulted in a \$4,101 addition to the reward fund set up by James' grandfather and Rising Paper Co. of Housatonic, according to the grandfather, Alfred Bernardo of Lee. *Eagle 5.19.91*

After last Sunday's event, the fund — which includes a \$10,000 donation from Rising Paper Co., where the boy's father works — now totals \$15,378, according to the elder Bernardo. Money was raised through admission tickets, raffles and food sales, he said.

"I couldn't believe it," said Bernardo of the crowd. "There were a lot of people we know and the bands were fantastic."

The event was organized by Vicki Womack, a member of the band Fast Forward.

Besides Fast Forward, Public Nuisance, Frenzy, The Quarrymen and Leon Savage all performed between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., said Bernardo.

James Bernardo was last seen Oct. 22 riding his bike at the west end of the Pittsfield Plaza. His body was found Nov. 21 in a wooded area of Newfield, N.Y., which is 200 miles west of Pittsfield. He had been bound, gagged and strangled with a rope. A medical examiner concluded that the boy was probably murdered between Oct. 22 and Oct. 30.

New York State Police took up a permanent post in the basement of the Pittsfield Police station on Allen Street and for several months pursued numerous leads and tips. During that time the boy's bike was found in Silver Lake, across town from where he was last seen, but no other substantive leads have panned out, police said.

Command post closed

Earlier this year, the New York State Police shut down their Pittsfield command post, citing cost constraints, but they continue to work on the case out of Ithaca.

Pittsfield Police Detective Peter McGuire, the liaison with the New York investigators, said he is in daily contact with the police in New York.

"We're still getting calls from the public here and over there," said McGuire. "We're not giving up. We'll get this guy, we just need to wait for that break."

Lee Selectmen criticized for hiring out-of-towners

LEE — Critics blasted the Selectmen Monday for filling two secretarial positions last week from outside Lee. They maintained that because of the economic recession, the board should have favored Lee applicants.

One of the four, August Pasetto, contended such a selection would not have been discrimination but rather an act of discretion. He and the other three critics, retired Town Clerk John J. Nagle and Board of Assessors members William Derrick and Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, said their remarks were not meant as criticisms of the persons hired, only of the Selectmen for hiring them.

The Selectmen let the hiring decisions stand, however.

Hired as interdepartmental clerks a week ago were Abby Kramer for a 22-hour-a-week job in the Airolti Building and Patricia Walsh for a 32-hour-a-week

job in Memorial Town Hall as an aide to the town clerk and treasurer.

Both are from Pittsfield and were deemed the most qualified candidates by all or a majority of the Selectmen. They observed that Kramer, for example, has a master's degree in planning, which would be ideal for her work with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and building inspector.

Chairman Joseph F. Dupont and Selectman William D. Bean, who voted for Walsh, observed that Lee is an equal-opportunity employer and cannot discriminate by town of residence any more than it can discriminate for any other reason. In the case of the Town Hall post, Selectman Diane P. Roosa had voted for a candidate — from Lee — who had been recommended by Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino. But Carlino conceded she had not interviewed Walsh.

Lee school board is firm; Eccher to coach baseball

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.20.91

LEE — In an atmosphere as hot as the bleachers on a July afternoon, the School Committee last night refused to reconsider its appointment of Robert Eccher as varsity baseball coach at Lee High School.

The committee's meeting room was crowded with about 40 students and parents, many of whom said that the committee had arbitrarily passed over the other candidate for the job, Steven Consolati, when the 3-2 vote was taken last week.

Francis Puleri, two of whose sons play baseball for Lee High, presented the committee with a petition containing about 250 signatures. The petition asked the committee to reconsider. Puleri and others also noted that Richard Lenfest, the district's athletic director, had recommended that Consolati be hired.

"Dick Lenfest doesn't do anything just off the cuff," Puleri said.

LEE, continued on D2

Hodgkins seeks WMECO rate probe

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, a candidate for his party's nomination to run for the 1st Congressional District seat, has called for an investigation into Western Mass. Electric Co.'s latest rate hike request.

Hodgkins, who has repeatedly opposed the utility's rate hike requests during his eight years in the House, called WMECO's claim that its customers' conservation measures are costing it money "ludicrous."

Hodgkins compared the utility's assertions that the success of the conservation program has cut into its profits to "a car dealer saying we haven't sold as many cars as we wanted because of the economy, so we're going to raise the price."

In a letter to the chairman of the Department of Public Utilities, which decides rate cases, Hodgkins said that by asking for a rate hike to shore up its profits, WMECO is trying to penalize customers who conserved energy so that its stockholders get a better rate of return.

"They're sticking it to the customer and small-business people again," Hodgkins said. "We should be rewarded for conserving energy, not punished with a rate increase."

WMECO spokesmen have said that the home energy audits and other conservation programs the company has been promoting have been so successful that usage has declined by 15.9 megawatts through December 1990, about enough power to light 2,460 homes.

Eagle 3.21.91

Lee board stands firm on coach

LEE, from D1

3.20.91

School Committee Chairman Edward M. Lahey, who last week joined committee members Carol LeProvost and Judith Olds in supporting Eccher, said that the matter was settled last week.

"Bob Eccher is the baseball coach and that's it," Lahey said.

Committee member Joseph Savery, who was not present for last week's vote, said that his review of the minutes of the meeting, his consultations with Lenfest and others, plus his examination of both candidates' qualifications, had convinced him that Consolati was the man for the job.

However, Savery also noted that Robert's Rules of Order, which the board follows, requires that a motion to reconsider a vote must come from the majority. Therefore, he said, last week's motion by the two committee members who supported Consolati — Roland Besaw and Gary Norton — to have the committee to vote again were out of order.

Savery also announced that he does not intend to seek reelection when his three-year term expires this year. Later, the 20-year veteran of the committee said that he can no longer commit the amount of time he believes is necessary to do the job properly.

"I also have some personal reasons that I'd just as soon not go into," he said.

At one point, the three committee members who had voted to appoint Eccher were asked to give their reasons.

The audience booed when Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski said that the members are not required to answer and

that questions must be directed to them through the chairman.

LeProvost, Olds and Lahey said that their votes were based on a review of both candidates' qualifications.

"That's the nice thing about America," said LeProvost, pointing to an American flag pin on her suit jacket. "People can have opinions."

Olds said that Consolati's resume indicated that the last time he worked with young people was in 1977, whereas Eccher has been junior varsity baseball coach for

the past four years.

"He knows the students and their abilities," she said.

Consolati said that the committee "has turned its back on the kids."

"You're not doing anything to me," he said. "I'm not going to suffer, the kids are."

Zukowski urged the audience not to allow the issue to divide the community or the team.

"I've been in coaching and the worst thing that can happen to a coach is to have players divided on some issue related to the coach," he said.

LEE

Courier 3.21.91

Possible Override Vote In Lee

LEE -- Lee voters at the annual town meeting in May will confront their first request to override Proposition 2 1/2, probably to the tune of between \$200,000 and \$600,000.

The Selectmen and Finance Committee members, following their first full fledged joint review of departmental budget requests Monday, determined that real estate taxation will have to rise substantially this year.

The culprits will be the reduction in state aid to local communities as well as a drop in local receipts coupled with a three per cent pay raise negotiated by the Lee Employees Association and an increase in capital account requirements.

An override figure of over \$930,000 was originally projected before the Board of Public Works decided to remove some \$500,000 in requests from the warrant.

Teachers also are negotiating with the School Committee and the impact of any raises granted them has not been figured in, Finance chairman Robert Trask says.

Even without pay raises, Mr. Trask said, expenses this year would go up. He cites a jump in insurance premiums of more than \$100,000 and \$320,000 for bridge repairs. The two will more than offset a few reductions, such as a \$30,000 drop in the debt repayment and interest accounts.

Preliminary figures indicate state aid will drop by about \$14,000 also. Members of the two boards, however, have not yet begun their annual line-by-line review of each department's request — a process they will begin in the next two weeks.

Nor have they reconciled the impact caused by some departments following the mandate to level fund their budgets and the decision by others to level fund the services their departments render.

If the second approach is followed, Mr. Trask said, the override could approach the \$600,000 figure.

The annual town meeting is set for May 9.

Off my feet once again

609 3.23.91

LEE

Whisking out the front door of the Shops at Englands, whistling away, as I am wont to do on a brisk spring day when the world's my oyster, I step off the curb onto the crosswalk, waiting for the light to turn so I can cross to the First Aggie Bank.

Still whistling away, now gazing up North Street, I don't have a care in the world. Suddenly, out of nowhere, I feel a concussive jolt just below my right shoulder. Knocked momentarily into mid-air, I do a little fancy footwork and land back on the pavement just a couple of feet northward.

A split-second inventory tells me I'm all right (no pain, no injury), but I'm nonplused about what hit me. With a quick glance to the right, I am face to face with the tailgate of a large truck. Muttering a couple of choice expletives, I dance a step or two farther northward. After all, one prelude to disaster is enough for one day.

Next, I think about walking, albeit with extreme caution, down the driver's side of the truck and giving him a piece of my mind, since the idea is beginning to penetrate that he could have run me right over. Didn't he have enough sense to look in the mirror before backing up?

Then I realize what has actually happened. In the crosswalk, I had been standing a few feet behind the truck, at the midpoint of the blind spot that a truck's rearview mirror never covers. My experience with Mr. U-Haul's "adventure in moving" had taught me this — and had left me with a new respect for, if not an unremitting awe of, professional truck drivers.

With these thoughts I am transported back into my upbeat mood again. What's to be gained by haranguing the driver, who probably has no idea of what happened anyway? Why not forget it all and go on to my business at the bank? As the song says, "Pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again" — a song from older, even harder times that takes on a new meaning for me today.

When we're knocked off our feet, when times are bad (as they are right now for many of us), when we're down, it's much easier to stay there, dwelling on our problems, living in the negative, pessimistic attitudes and refusing to exercise the self-discipline required to go on with our lives.

It's not an easy order, though. When things go wrong, my natural tendency

Somehow I have
always landed
right-side-up again.
And I'm wondering
why.

is to rail at the truck drivers of this world rather than to retrieve my psychological bearings and get on with my life. Like many others, I have had my share of situations that have temporarily thrown me off my feet — surgery, divorces, deaths in the family, unwanted job changes — but somehow I have always landed right-side-up again. And I'm wondering why. Why is it some people, once knocked down, just stay there, while others seem to pick themselves up and move on with their lives?

I think it has a lot to do with the state of our minds, what we're focused on, at the time the tribulation hits us. Maybe it has something to do with what the new-age gurus call "creative visualization" and "positive imaging." Maybe it's the self-discipline of focusing on the good in ourselves and the world around us that keeps us from being permanently thrown off our feet. Maybe that gives us the mental concentration and power to dust ourselves off and immediately carry on.

But, as we move ahead amidst the confusions, uncertainties and downright insanities of today, often we feel as if we're spinning madly in a circle, round and round, with no sense of who we are, where we are, or what's really happening. Once we get started in the spin, once we step into this crazy world, it becomes increasingly difficult to stop spinning.

If we can't stop, how do we at least keep from becoming dizzyingly insane? Professional dancers, I am told, do something called "spotting" in their spins: They pick one spot to focus on each time they complete the spinning circle. If they begin looking at objects other than the spot, they lose it.

Like Robert Frost, we can choose "something like a star to stay our minds on and be staid." Then, even if the unexpected happens and we get temporarily thrown off our feet, we can pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and start all over again — even if, amidst all these thoughts, we're too late and the bank is closed.

Hank Nadig is an advertising consultant and part-time instructor at Berkshire Community College.

Looking ahead, Lee Bank forms holding company

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee Bank announced yesterday that it is preparing for changes in the banking business climate by forming a holding company that will own the bank while allowing it to conduct "business as usual."

David J. Bruce, president, said the move allows the bank to retain control of its own operations but will also mean that it can take advantage of expected changes in federal regulations that would substantially broaden the services banks could provide.

19th century structure

"Our present corporate structure was developed in the 1800s," Bruce said, "and all of our business has to be conducted under that structure, which may not be appropriate for future operations."

However, he said neither he nor other bankers know precisely what will emerge from the proposed federal laws.

Despite that, he said, it is clear that banking will be conducted under different conditions, and therefore "we need a structure that will give us more flexibility either to meet the threats to our business under the new laws or to take advantage of the opportunities."

3 advantages

The principal advantages of a holding company, Bruce said, are that it allows local control to continue, that it permits the bank to raise capital through the sale of stock and that it would allow the bank to offer such services as the purchase of securities for customers, the offering of mutual funds and insurance programs.

It is widely believed that the final version of the federal legis-

lation will allow banks the opportunity to offer those broader services.

"Banks which do not have the appropriate corporate structure may find themselves unable to compete under the new regulations," Bruce said. "We want to anticipate those regulations, yet still retain control through our traditional structure. The formation of a mutual holding company, while we are in a position of strength, meets these objectives."

He said Lee Bank is the first bank in the county to establish a mutual holding company, although First National Bank of the Berkshires, also based in Lee, last year created another type of holding company through which it transferred ownership of the bank to stockholders.

While the mutual holding company would allow Lee Bank to sell stock, Bruce said, the holding company would be controlled by a board of corporators and a board of trustees, similar to the present structure, rather than stockholders.

Minimum 51% owner

Under the legislation, he said, the holding company would not be permitted to sell more than 49 percent of the bank's stock, so that it would always retain control.

Bruce emphasized that in the present climate, there is no need for Lee Bank to raise capital and that it has not yet considered whether it should offer other services.

"But changes occur quickly," he said, "and we want to be ready."

The banking changes are being pushed by the Bush administration as a way of strengthening banks by allowing them to com-

CHANGES, continued on C2

Lee Bank holding company

■ CHANGES, from C1

It calls for ending the separation between banks and securities firms and allowing well-capitalized banks to affiliate with securities firms, insurance companies and mutual funds under a new financial-services holding company structure.

It would also make changes in the branch systems, tie bank regulation more directly to capital and change the coverage provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Growing steadily

Growing steadily

Lee Bank has maintained steady growth for the past several years. Earlier this year it reported 1990 assets of \$125 million, up 5 percent from the year before. Last year it had an 8.3 percent capital-to-asset ratio, a percentage that is comfortably above the benchmark figure of 6 percent established by the FDIC as a measure of a bank's strength.

Bruce said the change must be approved by the state's banking commissioner, the Federal Reserve Bank and the FDIC. These approvals are expected by the end of the year, he said.

Owner optimistic on prospects for Oak n' Spruce

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The president of Oak n' Spruce's parent company said yesterday that the owners intend to work their way out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and make the resort economically viable once again.

John C. Manoog III, president of Diversified Resorts of Hyannis, expressed that conviction after a creditors meeting in Springfield that concerned itself with a general review of Oak n' Spruce's finances.

The resort filed for Chapter 11 protection earlier this month following a snowless winter that kept vacationers away.

Loss of cash flow

Paul J. DiCrocce, general manager, said the cross country ski center was open for one day only. As a result, he said, the resort suffered a severe loss of cash flow because of cancellations for both the Christmas and February holiday weeks, he said.

Even before winter, the resort was experiencing financial problems, as made evident last July when the town of Lee placed a lien on the property for non-payment of real estate taxes.

At the time of the filing, Frank D. Kirby, the resort's attorney, said the cash-flow problems were compounded by the federal takeover of the bank that had provided the financing, resulting in a much less flexible financial relationship.

Yesterday Kirby identified that bank, the First Atlantic Savings & Loan Association of Plainfield, N.J., as the resort's largest creditor because of the \$3.3 million mortgage it holds on the property.

Protection from creditors

Kirby said the resort expects to work closely with the bank this spring on a plan to pay its debt.

Chapter 11 refers to a section of the bankruptcy law that allows debtors to continue to operate while giving them protection from creditors. Under bankruptcy court supervision, the debtors are required to reorganize their fi-

nances and develop a plan to pay their debts.

First Atlantic is under control of the Resolution Trust Corp., the federal agency established to rescue savings and loans associations whose failures throughout the country last year prompted a banking crisis.

Diversified Resorts bought the 41-year-old Oak n' Spruce resort in the mid-1980s. With financing from First Atlantic, it expanded its facilities to 48 hotel rooms, 162 time-share units, and a 200-seat dining room, along with tennis courts, a health club and other recreational facilities.

Time-share contracts

Kirby said the second largest creditor, Greico Financial Corp. of Denver, Colo., did not lend Diversified money to refurbish the resort during the 1980s but did buy the contracts between time-share purchasers and the resort.

At one time Greico held \$15 million in contracts, he said, but payments have reduced them to about \$6 million.

"As long as the time-share purchasers remain happy with the arrangement, Greico is protected because those customers will keep paying," he said.

For them to remain happy, he said, Oak n' Spruce has to continue to operate as a resort.

John Doherty, the senior paralegal and financial specialist for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Worcester, who presided over the meeting, scheduled the next session for June 21 at 1:30 p.m. to hear an update on Oak n' Spruce's progress.

DiCrocce said the resort is in good condition, 23 people are on the payroll and bookings for the next few months are encouraging.

After the meeting, Kirby said that he did not yet have all of the information about the smaller creditors but would in about a week. He called those debts "normal" for the operation.

Other principals from Diversified attending the meeting were Ralph McPhail, vice president, and John Cahalane, director of marketing.

Lee skier Krista Schmidinger battles the course during yesterday's World Cup giant slalom in New Hampshire.



Lee School Committee
puts students first

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—
On March 5, as a member of the Lee School Committee, I helped make two hard decisions regarding two coaching positions. These decisions were based on what we felt was the best for the students of the Lee school system. I hope everyone realizes that when we make decisions, the first thing we think about are the students. We do not take our positions lightly. (Nor are we paid for these positions.)

I hope that the parents of our players support their children and their coaches. Being a coach myself in a few different sports, I believe the most important part of any sport is the "mental" game. If a person believes that they can do something, they will most likely do it. All players need a positive attitude, no matter who the coach is. If you want your son or daughter to succeed in their sport, encourage them! Don't put them or their coaches down. Too many times I have heard parents "coming down" on their children and the coaches.

Parents should also be a role model. For example, if you are unhappy with the vote, remember your manners and don't stick out your tongue at the committee.

Many times through the years, life may not go as we want it to go, but everyone has to live with that, including our children. We must teach them to make the best of any situation.

I almost wish that we lived in a perfect world, but then there would be no challenge in life. We must remember that even if we are behind, there's always a chance to catch up and win, no matter what game in life we are playing.

JUDITH L. OLDS
Hartwood Road
Lee

3.25.91

Scouts take walk in others' shoes

3.24.91
Eagle

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — It was not the wheelchair division of the Boston Marathon, but to the Girl Scouts taking part in Project Acquaint, it was a tough race.

A slalom around two metal chairs provided the 100 girls with plenty of information of what it is like to maneuver a wheelchair in earnest.

Project Acquaint is run by Betty Papirio of Girls Inc. of Pittsfield. By creating situations in which a group of children assume a variety of handicaps, she helps them understand how people with one limitation or another cope with everyday life.

Wheelchairs, they quickly learned, go straight ahead easily enough. But it is the turning that is tricky. One after another, small-to-tiny girls found they barely could reach the wheels and, more to the point, had all they could do to swing around the last chair at the end of the Girls Inc. gymnasium and head back for the finish line.

Wheelchair manners

Along with the live action, the Girl Scouts learned wheelchair etiquette. They should ask permission to help people in wheelchairs or even to touch their chairs, which is really an extension of their bodies.

They learned they should act natural with someone in a wheelchair, but to describe any obstacles that might hinder a user when giving directions.

In a similar briefing on blindness, Papirio opened the afternoon session with a primer in sign language. The Girl Scouts learned how to "sing" "One Little Indian" using their hands instead of their voices.

Earlier in the day, they tried writing with their sight altered as it might be in the case of dyslexia.

And to understand deafness, the troops watched a film without a sound track and tried to figure out what was going on.



Photos by Mark Mitchell

Sara Bullock, 7, of Troop 218 of Lee, top, concentrates on sign language while Jessica Dyer, 9, of Troop 107, Pittsfield, struggles with wheelchair race.

Courier 3.28.91



Photo by Donald B. Victor

Loree and Rob Zeif of Lee, shown with son Adam, 9.5 months, were volunteers at the Jewish Federation's Super Sunday phone-athon in support of local, regional and international causes recently.

64.



Eagle 3.25.91

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Samantha Herrick of Lenox, center, is a repeat most valuable player and leads the 1991 All-Berkshire girls' basketball team. Team members are, from left: Jessie

McManmon of Lee, Sue Bator of Hoosac, Herrick, Jamie Murphy of Taconic and Jen Maloney of Pittsfield. Not pictured is Shannon Driscoll of Lee.

Lee Selectmen fear impact of landfill traffic

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — This town's Board of Selectmen registered formal concern last night over the likely impact of heavy-truck traffic on county highways if the giant regional landfill proposed in Hinsdale becomes reality.

Although the selectmen individually voiced opposition to the landfill venture, they said they could not, as a board, oppose or approve any project in another town. So they settled for the concern over traffic.

"I don't think we should take a position on the project itself; that's up to the voters of Hinsdale," said Chairman Joseph F. Dupont.

But William D. Bean, who has shown particular anxiety in the past few months over the three-county solid-waste transfer station proposed in Canaan, N.Y., said that if both it and the Hinsdale project should be implemented, "we're going to get really clobbered."

He said he could visualize heavy traffic through Lee and other South Berkshire towns, particularly Richmond and West Stockbridge. The transfer station in Canaan, if constructed, would accept refuse from Berkshire

County as well as from Columbia and Rensselaer counties in New York state.

Two of the likely accesses from Berkshire County are through West Stockbridge and Richmond.

Lee's other selectman, Diane P. Roosa, said that although she works for a solid-waste management company, she is not in conflict of interest in opposing the Hinsdale project. By coincidence, she observed, her employer, U.S. Systems Corp. in Great Barrington, has a contract to transport refuse from Hudson County, N.J., to a regional landfill near Scranton, Pa., operated by Empire Sanitary Landfill Inc., the same landfill that Hinsdale officials visited two weeks ago.

Solid waste and waste management was a prime topic at last night's meeting, for the Selectmen also voted to add to the May 9 town meeting warrant an amended recycling bylaw proposed by the Lee Recycling Committee.

If approved, said the committee's chairman, Maynard Clemens, it would empower the Selectmen to order the recycling of materials not then in the recycling stream. The present bylaw does not give the board that explicit authority now.

LEE

Courier 3.28.91

Selectmen Wary Of Traffic Impact Should Hinsdale Landfill Open

LEE -- Although they took no formal vote on the matter the selectmen expressed concern Monday evening over the potential impact heavy trucks would have on county highways if a giant landfill, proposed for Hinsdale, is opened.

In particular, board member William Bean said that if both a three-county solid waste transfer station in Canaan, N.Y. and the landfill in Hinsdale are in operation, "we're going to get clobbered."

He also noted that other southern Berkshire towns such as Richmond and West Stockbridge likewise will feel the impact. The transfer station would accept refuse from Berkshire County as well as from Columbia and Rensselaer counties in New York.

Another solid waste recycling item also came up at Monday's

meeting. The board voted to add to the May 9 town meeting warrant an item to permit them to order the recycling of material not covered by the present bylaw.

Hodgkins opposes coal-plant permit

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, a candidate for his party's nomination to run for the 1st Congressional District seat, urged the Environmental Protection Agency yesterday not to approve a permit for a coal-burning co-generation plant proposed for Halfmoon, N.Y., by Inter-Power of New York.

Hodgkins opposes the project because Inter-Power, a subsidiary of a West German corporation, plans to use a high-sulfur coal to power the plant. Because of prevailing westerly winds, much of the plan emissions will be carried to areas in Western Massachusetts and Vermont, particularly in Berkshire County.

In written testimony submitted to the EPA, which conducted a hearing on the proposal Tuesday night at the Halfmoon Town Hall, Hodgkins blasted the project as "totally unacceptable" because of potential ecological deterioration from acid rain and ozone concentrations in Western Massachusetts.

Inter-Power proposes to build the 210-megawatt facility in Halfmoon, 10 miles north of Albany, N.Y., to provide steam to GE's Waterford, N.Y., plant and sell electricity to the Niagara Mohawk utility.

Thus far, the project has engendered dissenting, non-binding opinions from two judges.

Eagle 3.28.91

Tristany's, a Lee fixture, may reopen as a sports bar

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Tristany's tavern at 232 Main St., a fixture for nearly 50 years until Mario Tristany closed it and retired about a year ago, is being bought by two Lee men who want to enlarge it and reopen it as the Locker Room Sports Bar and Lounge.

After receiving an all-alcoholic beverage license from the Selectmen Monday night, the partners, William LaGrant and Donald J. Lucy, said they hope to be open for business in May or early June.

They will have to wait at least until May, first because the sale has not been finalized and, second, because the Selectmen granted the liquor license on condition that it be held in abeyance until off-street parking requirements are met.

And a section of the town's zoning bylaw dealing with off-street parking will be up for amendment at the annual town meeting May 9. If passed, it will reduce the square footage required for such parking and will ease the renovation task, Lucy and LaGrant said.

By establishing a parking lot on land they are buying in the rear of the proposed bar and restaurant, they can meet the amended

bylaw requirements, the two men said. But if needed, they added, they can obtain extra parking at the rear of the Convenience Plus-6 filling station and variety store across the street.

Dissent on license

The liquor license was granted on a 2-1 vote. Selectman William D. Bean dissented on grounds that there are enough liquor licenses afloat in Lee. It is consistent with positions he has taken on other alcoholic-beverage licenses granted in recent months.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa and Chairman Joseph F. Dupont voted in favor of the license.

Lucy and LaGrant are graduates of Lee High School and each is a former two-sport coach, LaGrant of football and softball and Lucy of football and basketball. Lucy is a mathematics teacher at Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield, and LaGrant is a former teacher, insurance salesman and bartender.

The Locker Room will have a sandwich and soup menu, the partners said, and will be enlarged to seat up to 70 people from the present capacity of 44.

"We'll be pumping a ton of money into it," said LaGrant, "and will be bringing back a

property on Main Street where there's absolutely nothing now."

Their attorney, Don C. Hunter, said the partners would screen their parking lot if neighbors request it.

Other business

In other business, the Selectmen granted a beer-and-wine license to the Red Apple, a Chinese restaurant and take-out service on Housatonic Street whose owner, Xing Chen, said that customers have increasingly asked if they could buy beer or wine there.

Chen, who spoke to Selectmen through a friend and interpreter, Paul Feng, said that "business has slowed down" in recent months. Possession of a license might help to recapture some of the lost business, he said, adding that not all customers like tea, which he traditionally serves with meals.

"I think most business has slowed down in town" as a result of the recession, said Bean, who cast his usual vote of no on Chen's license application.

"I think you're feeling the competition," said Dupont to Chen. He and Roosa observed that they had granted four beer-and-wine or liquor licenses to local restaurants in January alone.

Plastics recycling

The board also agreed to write to the Lenox Trucking Co., which is one of the commercial haulers of rubbish in town, asking the company to prod its customers to recycle plastic as they do paper, metal and glass.

Members of the Recycling Committee said Lenox Trucking has deposited very little plastic in the landfill since the town began plastics recycling at the beginning of March — "only a dozen or so pieces," said Chairman Maynard Clemons.

Committee members said it appears the company does not want to be bothered with handling plastic containers but there are no teeth in the existing bylaw to overcome that. An amended bylaw giving the Selectmen more authority over recycling will be put up for vote at the annual town meeting.

The Daley & Sons trucking company of Lee, the other major rubbish hauler in town, has been collecting recyclable plastic right along, committee members said.

Hodgkins contends that Guernsey lied; Guernsey dismisses charge as 'garbage'

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who is seeking his party's nomination to run for the 1st Congressional District seat, has accused fellow Democrat Sherwood Guernsey of lying about a contribution to Guernsey's unsuccessful state senatorial campaign last year.

Guernsey dismissed the charge as "garbage" and said that his opponent is "wrong, slanderous and immature."

Daniel O. Bellow, Hodgkins' press secretary, produced documents showing that Guernsey received a \$1,000 contribution from Anthony Rud, a member of the board of directors of the Berkshire Learning Center.

Guernsey resigned from the three-

member board of the school for emotionally disturbed boys after it was revealed that the executive director, Marianne E. Rud, had given herself a \$37,586 pay raise while freezing employees' pay and spent \$10,000 of school funds on child care for a granddaughter. Rud, who said that \$11,632 of the pay raise was a reimbursement for personal funds she had spent, later repaid the money spent on child care.

Sees 'impropriety'

Bellow said that when Guernsey was asked about the issue at a campaign appearance on Tuesday, he said that he had not taken "a penny from the Ruds all last year."

"The impropriety of Sherwood's acts and the fact that he would be so brazen

as to lie to a newspaper reporter when confronted about them show that he is unfit to be a United States congressman," Bellow said.

Last night, Guernsey said that he received the \$1,000 check from Anthony Rud in late May 1990 but returned it on June 1. He stressed that he never had the use of the money and explained that all contributions went to the treasurer of his campaign, who gave him periodic reports.

"I rarely, if ever, see the checks," Guernsey said. "When I went through the report a few days later and saw the name, I returned the money immediately."

"I'm out here talking about manufacturing jobs, while he's squirreling

CONFLICT, continued on B4

Accusation

■ CONFLICT, from B1
around manufacturing the facts," Guernsey said of Hodgkins. "He's wrong. Period. What's more, his campaign so far can only be characterized as misleading and immature."

"We need less grandstanding and more understanding for this district," Guernsey said. "It's obviously mud season for him. I guess he takes it literally. I guess the next thing he'll try to do is tie my shoelaces together."

Maytag man can wait

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Reading Milton Bass' column in the March 17 Eagle truly stirred old anger.

Just a few years ago I purchased a brand new Maytag dishwasher. The commercial won me over. My almond beauty was delivered the day before Thanksgiving. Company came, dishes — you bet! I loaded, turned on, one grind and then nothing. So I unloaded and spent the better part of the evening doing dishes.

The repairman came, looked, shrugged and told me he'd have to order parts, allow 10 to 14 days for them to arrive and he would call and reschedule. I insisted they take back their Maytag. I bought a GE and am very pleased.

My theory why the Maytag man is resting by the phone — he is waiting for parts.

JUDITH PERRY
11 Bradley St.
Lee

Gregory promises faster reviews

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.30.91

LEE — The Weld administration intends to lessen the time it takes to approve business and industrial projects, its secretary of economic affairs said yesterday.

Daniel S. Gregory, speaking at an impromptu press conference before meeting with officials from Mead Corp., said that while the administration "will not abandon the environment," it will work to speed the review process.

Gregory's truncated tour of the Berkshires was arranged by newly elected state Sen. Jane M.

Swift, R-North Adams. Swift said that Gregory's failure to visit with businessmen in South Berkshire was because of time restrictions.

County sweep

After arriving at Mead in Lee from Boston, Gregory went to Pittsfield to meet with members of the Central Berkshire Chamber of Commerce and GE officials before swinging into Northern Berkshire to visit North Adams Mayor John Barrett III as well as the Delfree mushroom farm and the site of the proposed Massachusetts

GREGORY, continued on B5

Promises faster action

■ GREGORY, from B
Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

3.30.91

Though the state, the county and North Berkshire are all feeling the economic pinch, Gregory struck an upbeat note, saying that the leading economic indicators in the state were up 1.2 percent in February, the first such rise in many months.

But Gregory also said that he was carrying a list of some 20 firms across the state that said they have "problems" of one kind or another. Most of the difficulties, Gregory said, have to do with the length of time it takes to have a project approved. He concluded that the Department of Environmental Protection plays a significant role in the increasing cost of doing business in Massachusetts.

But he said that he was aware of the value of the Berkshires to the state economy through tourism and added, "We make no bones about it. We're trying to market Massachusetts."

But losses of state services and agencies continue to anger and frustrate county residents, the

latest examples being the impending closing of the Great Barrington office of the Registry of Motor Vehicles and threat of a similar action in regard to the South Berkshire District Court. The Weld administration is hesitant about using tax breaks as lures to business and industry, Gregory said, but it is well aware of the weight of the existing tax system, both for business and for people on fixed incomes.

"The word is, 'Don't die in Massachusetts,'" Gregory said. "We want to modify that and bring it into line with other states so that older citizens do not feel they have to leave the state to survive."

If there is an overriding concern of the administration, he said, it is to bring the budget under control.

Scott M. Hollander, Mead's division manager for human services, said after the meeting that the company's main concerns are the cost of workers' compensation and the need for solid educational programs in the state's school systems.

Fresh-baked items sold at new shop

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.31.91

LEE — Entrepreneur Steve Consolati, engaged for seven years in the video-rental business, branched into a new domain this month when he opened a coffee, pastry and sandwich shop called Dandi Donut at 33 Park Plaza.

Previously Dawn's Place, Dandi Donut is offering freshly baked doughnuts, muffins and apple fritters as premium attractions. For some time, said Consolati, "there has really been no place in Lee to buy fresh-baked goods to go with a cup of coffee." He is changing that.

Well, actually, he and his wife, Sandra, who is co-owner.

The former owner of the shop, Dawn Palmer, once did baking on the premises but had ceased to do so by the time the Consolatis bought the business for \$32,500.

They promptly began what amounted to some \$9,000 worth of renovations that were completed at the time of opening March 18.

Financing was provided by Lee Savings Bank and Berkshire County Savings Bank.

Not a food-service expert, Consolati said he has placed the shop under the management of Mary Shoemaker, a Lee resident with 27 years in the food-service industry, most of the time as a waitress.

"If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have gone into this," Consolati said. "She knows the restaurant business."

Shoemaker, who said she held her first waitress job when she was 16, has worked at the former State Line Diner in Canaan, N.Y., which eventually became part of the big Georgeport truck stop there; at Peter's and Johnny's restaurants, both in Pittsfield;



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Mary Shoemaker is managing Dandi Donut in Lee, a coffee shop on the former location of Dawn's Place.

and at Athena's Pizza House in Lee, figuratively around the corner from Park Plaza.

Hours at Dandi Donut are 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. seven days a week, Shoemaker said. Besides a full breakfast menu, from which orders are taken at any time, the shop has a soup-and-sandwich menu for lunches, as well as luncheon specials.

"At this point, we're keeping it simple," said Consolati. "We don't want to be putting out a million different things and mak-

ing it too complicated."

Other employees are waitress Veronica Lindner and bakers Christine Thomas and Mary Alcantra.

Consolati relegates much of his own time at Dandi Donut to that of customer — morning coffee usually. He is the owner of Videofile at 60 Main St. in Lee and part owner, with Donald Turner of Pittsfield, of East Street Video at 10 Lyman St. in Pittsfield and Dalton Video on Depot Street in Dalton.

3 contests expected for Lee election

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

3.31.91

There are 277 registered Republicans in town, 757 Democrats and 2,025 unaffiliated, or independent, voters.

LEE — On the eve of this town's party nominating caucuses, three contests are shaping up for the annual town election May 13: for selectman, town clerk and treasurer, and for a seat on the Planning Board.

There may be others after the caucuses are concluded Thursday night, but the information from party officers is: Don't bet heavily on it.

Although no contest is in the works for two School Committee seats that are to be filled, the vacancies have drawn one new name into the arena, David K. Chivers of 99 East St., a native of Dalton but a relative newcomer to Lee.

from the Planning Board if he wins the selectman race, he said. Bailey and Deely will be competing for the selectman's seat currently held by William D. Bean, who announced Feb. 26, his wife's disability, that he would seek re-election.

Bean, who has been a selectman for two terms, or six years, has endorsed Bailey as his successor.

the independent route to the ballot by circulating nomination papers. His have been certified. The Democrats are also expected to nominate Karen Norton for a seat on the Board of Health, for which the incumbent, Maur- een Wellspeak, will not seek re-election. Frank V. McCarthy, re-tired managing editor of The Berkshire Eagle, for a seat on the Housing Authority, whose incumbent, Mary Furer, has chosen

on Railroad Street. "Even so," said Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, Democratic town chairman, "we're trying to get a good turnout, and we usually do get some write-ins."

There are 277 registered Republicans in town, 757 Democrats and 2,025 unaffiliated, or independent, voters.

Edward M. Lahey, chairman of the School Committee, was not surprised at the absence of a contest for the seats on that board.

"Nobody in his right mind" he said, "is going to want a job that takes you away from home two nights a month regularly and several other nights in between and doesn't pay you a dime."

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Lights, camera, action!

Filming begins for Lethal Innocence

By Kathleen Pease

A crowd of people spent the day handling the produce at the Water Street Market in East Lee Monday, but no one actually bought anything -- the "shoppers" were really extras in an upcoming movie for public television that began filming in south county last week.

Tentatively titled *Lethal Innocence*, the film is the true story of a Vermont town that rallies around an adopted Cambodian

"I loved it," said Church after the scene was shot. "It was really fun."

youth to bring the rest of his family to this country.

Filming is expected to take 24 days in a variety of area locations. The first three days were filmed at the home of G. Bruce Rumph in Lenox, whose family was housed at Fox Hollow for the duration. Other parts of the \$1.4 million project of Turtleback Productions will be filmed at Jack's Department Store, Lee Power, Sullivan Station and Steve's Barber Shop, all in Lee, Berkshire Scenic Railway in Lenox and the Pittsfield Municipal Airport. Scenes will also be shot in Stockbridge and Great Barrington. The Lee High School band is expected to play in the scene at the airport.



All eyes and cameras were on actress Blair Brown during a movie scene filmed at Water Street Market in East Lee Monday. Turtleback Productions will be filming *Lethal Innocence* in several Berkshire sites during the next three weeks.

The two scenes filmed at the market involve actress Blair Brown, of TV's *Molly Dodd* fame, who plays the part of Sally, a cashier. Sarah Church of West Stockbridge, who in real life works at the Depot Cafe there, stood alongside Blair, cast as a co-worker.

When asked how she got the part,

Church said, "Somebody came into the restaurant where I work and said, would you like to do this, and I said sure."

"I loved it," said Church after the scene was shot. "It was really fun." Church also took part in the second scene.

More than a dozen crew members spent

Continued on Page 20

Everybody's a star in Lee

Continued from page 1

nearly 11 hours at the market preparing, rehearsing and filming the scenes which will amount to about two minutes of the 90-minute drama to be telecast in November.

Rodney Clark, owner of the market, was paid \$250 for the use of his store for the day. He said the excitement of the filming was well-worth the loss of one day's business.

"This whole thing is pretty interesting," said Clark, who was approached a month ago about the use of his store. "It was a toss-up of a couple of places, but they liked the high ceilings." Clark said he also got to teach Brown how to operate the cash register.

A few customers still wandered in during the day, unaware that the store was closed.

"There's a movie here today; we're not really open," Clark said to one of them, but he sold a dozen eggs to the man anyway.

Clark's mother, Doris, was one of the extras in the market scene. "Rod, you should have brought your camera," she admonished her son, before portraying a customer buying groceries from Brown.

"I hope he gets good publicity out of it," she said. "I asked if I could be in this (scene)."

Actress Kathleen Monteleone of Pittsfield was hired as a stand-in for Brown and also played a customer in the market.

"Everyone has been very nice," she said. "This is a very pleasant atmosphere."

Tom Hall, also of Pittsfield, agreed that he was working with "a nice bunch of people." Hall was

Scenic railway may be derailed this summer

Plans to revive the Berkshire Scenic Railway this summer may be in jeopardy as the new owners of the south-county railroad line grapple with the reconstruction of the 32-mile track.

Although the purchase of the track by Housatonic Rail Road Co. early this year from the B&M Railroad Co. appeared to clear the way for the tourist train this summer, the vice president of the Housatonic Rail Road says the schedule to reconstruct the track has been revised.

"I don't know if we'll be able to get it done in time," says Peter Lynch, vice president of operations for Housatonic. "A lot of work has to be done to make it safe."

Lynch says the railroad company had set a schedule to rehabilitate the track. But several new projects both on the south-county line and on the company's line in north-west Connecticut have come up that need to be dealt with. He says the south-county line is in worse condition than anticipated.

"You want to set a timetable, but as you go along you find other stuff that needs to be done. As we sit here, I don't know if we'll be able to do it in time," Lynch says.

Philip Heller, attorney for Berkshire Scenic Railway, says the tourist-train managers are hoping to convince the Housatonic Rail Road to alter its schedule to accommodate its summer train ride, which was canceled last summer by B&M Railroad because of unsafe rail conditions.

Berkshire Scenic Railway is based in Lenox and has spent a considerable amount of energy in restoring the former Lenox railroad station as a museum and base for the tourist train. The group lobbied hard with the region's state legislators and the late U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte to secure government grants and loans for John Hanlon, owner of Housatonic Rail Road, to buy and restore the Berkshire tracks. Lynch says the acquisition could never have happened were it not for Conte's work.

Although the railroad tracks in Lee and Lenox are in

good-enough condition to carry freight trains, Heller says passenger trains are not allowed on the tracks until repair work is done. Berkshire Scenic Railway volunteers say Housatonic Rail Road has done a good job in its work so far, but they say they are worried about Hanlon completing the job by the summer.

Lynch says his railroad company hopes to be able to do the work in time. He says the company has been able to pick up some freight business since taking over the track from businesses along the track, including Mead Specialty Paper in Lee.

Town Meeting reject several proposed expenses.

If the Town Meeting follows the committee's recommendations, the town would vote to raise the levy limit imposed by Proposition 2 1/2 by an estimated \$185,000. Committee Chairman Robert Trask, however, is quick to add that that figure may change dramatically, depending on the whims of the town representatives. Also, he says, final numbers in the recommended \$8.5 million budget are still elusive because contract talks for teacher, highway and police salaries are still underway.

Opinions are divided among town officials about the wisdom of an override. Selectmen's Chairman Joseph F. DuPont and Selectman William D. Bean say they hope to avoid an override at almost any cost because of the tough economic times. "People just don't have the money," Bean says. "I can't support an override the way things are now. We have to live within our means. I know we have many pressing projects, but you can only go to the well so many times."

Lee officials foresee \$185,000 override

Saying the town will almost certainly face an override of Proposition 2 1/2 this year if it wants to maintain town services, the Lee Finance Committee recommended many cuts in the town's proposed budget to lessen the effect. Committee members initially said the override could be as much as \$900,000. But after applying sharp pencils to many projects which they determined to be important but superfluous during tight fiscal times, the committee recommended that the

Tracking whales in Lee

Lee public-school students will be tracking whales and solving environmental problems with computers, thanks to grants recently awarded to the Lee schools by Mead Specialty Paper Division.

The grants are part of the corporation's nationwide Mead Educational Initiatives program, supporting innovative education in communities where Mead operates.

One project is a package of video material and software that re-creates a whale-tracking expedition seen on the PBS television program *Voyage of the Mimi*. Another grant uses computers to help students develop critical-thinking skills by studying natural-resources issues with help from the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Other grants include a teacher-training program for mathematics teachers, the purchase of a computer display screen for business and industrial-arts education, and materials for advanced-placement physics instruction.

town topics

Lee selectmen deny Kish sign permit at inn

George Kish, owner of the Black Swan Inn, is threatening to sue the town of Lee for prejudicial treatment in its crackdown on his hotel's sign. The inn has two signs on its building, but the bylaws only allow for one. Kish, however, says he was given a permit for the second sign in 1984 and that the total area of the two signs is well-within the prescribed limit for a sign on his building.

Building Inspector Robert Lester has taken Kish to criminal court for the violation. The case was heard in February without a finding and was continued to this summer. The selectmen say they will not rescind their charges, although they do acknowledge Kish's complaint that other businesses' signs are in violation that the town has not dealt with.

In other selectmen's business, the board granted permission to the Lee VFW to hold a fund-raising toll gate on Main Street on May 18. The board also told Brenda Dupras, vice president of the Lee High School student council, that the school could hold a toll gate on May 25 to raise money for senior scholarships. The Lee students have been the most successful fund raisers on Main Street, having obtained more than \$1,000 last year.

Lee Selectman candidate claims unfair exclusion

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Gordon Bailey, who is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen, says he was refused placement on the Democratic caucus ballot even though he is an independent, or unaffiliated, voter.

And the Democratic Town Committee, he said, invited either Democrats or independents to submit their names for the inclusion on the caucus ballot.

But Edward M. Briggs, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, said that Bailey's name was included on the Republican caucus ballot and that Democratic committee members last Thursday decided that he was not eligible for the Democratic ballot because he was already on the Republican one.

"Our rules say our ballot is open to Democrats and independents," Briggs said.

But Bailey, who has also qualified for election through the filing of nomination papers as an independent candidate, said he is shocked by the decision.

Last month when the two parties invited candidates to submit their names, he said, there was no stated exclusion by the Dem-

ocrats of independents who might also appear on the Republican ballot.

A check with David Sullivan, counsel in the elections division of the attorney general's office, did not clear away all the clouds. Speaking generally, Sullivan said, a town political party can include or exclude persons from the other party on caucus ballots but must make it a party rule approved by vote of the party committee. Further, he said, the rule must be established in a timely manner and made clear to all people who might be affected by it.

Bailey charged that this was not done here.

Briggs said he and others on the Democratic Town Committee feel "we did it the right way." He said if Bailey has a complaint, he has the right of appeal to state agencies.

He also said the Bailey "is already on the ballot twice [as an independent and a Republican]. I can't see what a big deal it is."

The Democratic caucus will be tonight at the Senior Center from 7 to 9. In the Selectman's slot on the ballot is Martin H. Deely, a town committee member.

Gt. Barrington Bank buys BNE banks in Lee, S'bridge

Ending months of negotiations, the Bank of New England announced last week that it was selling its Lee and Stockbridge branches to Great Barrington Savings Bank for an undisclosed amount.

If the sale is approved by state and federal authorities, the two branch offices will officially change allegiances in the summer, Great Barrington Savings Bank President James A. Cunningham Jr. says.

The transaction is expected to make Great Barrington Savings Bank, which now has assets of \$201 million, the second-largest saving bank in the county, after Berkshire County Savings Bank.

All employees in the two branch offices will be offered jobs with Great Barrington Savings Bank, Cunningham says. The acquisition was for the property and deposits at both banks.

BNE sold the branches as part of the failed regional bank's consolidation and sales program. "We are very pleased this agreement ensures that these branches will continue to serve their communities under the ownership of a strong local bank," BNE President D. Bruce Wheeler says.

Cunningham says the transition will be

a gradual one with the initial work being done in the back offices of both branches. Once the acquisition is approved, he says, customer services and rates will change from BNE's to his bank's.

"It will mean a greater degree of autonomy for the people in the branches and knowledge that someone is right there to make the decision. The real benefit will be in customer service," Cunningham says.

The transaction requires approval by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the state Division of Banks. Cunningham says the agencies will determine whether the deal will disrupt competitiveness or the financial stability of Great Barrington Savings Bank. Cunningham says he anticipates no resistance from government authorities.

"The only wild card is the BNE sale," Cunningham says of the regional bank's pending sale by the FDIC. "We believe our agreement is binding, but it's still somewhat of an unknown."

Four bids have been placed for the BNE's three FDIC-owned banks. The FDIC is expected to announce its selected buyer on April 16.

BMC ventilator support saved a life

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Our son David, now 15 months old, was born at Berkshire Medical Center. He is our third child and complications were not expected, but he was born with severe hydrocephalus, which is excessive fluid in the brain. He needed ventilator support within minutes after birth, which Berkshire Medical Center had at that time. He could not have been transported to another hospital as he would not have survived the trip.

We never thought that the state would have ordered this system out of BMC. Well, they have. It seems that we are taking steps backward in medical necessities. We are fortunate that David was born at the time he was. We are concerned for others that will need this help. When this comes up for appeal, BMC will need all the support that can be given. If you're going to be a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle someday, this may effect you in some way.

David remained at BMC in the intensive care nursery for a couple of weeks and we feel that he received more care there than he would have at a bigger hospital. With other children at home, having to travel to Albany, Springfield or Connecticut would have definitely made matters more devastating.

SUSAN H. GORE
RICHARD E. GORE Jr.
598 Fairview St.
Lee

Letters to the Editor

Berkshire Record

A Vote for Chris Hodgkins

To The Editor:

For thirty-two years the citizens of Berkshire County were ably represented in Congress by Silvio Conte, and his death in February leaves an empty void.

To replace Congressman Conte, we need a person who is from Berkshire County, who knows our needs, who has experience in legislative office—nearly ten years' worth, and who has sponsored or cosponsored legislation that has benefited the lives of not only the average voters, but who has helped those in the dawn of life—our children, those in the sunset of life—our seniors, and those in the shad-

ows of life—the homeless, the slow learner, the physically and emotionally disadvantaged, the one in five children living in poverty and neglect, the battered women and men, and others living in life's shadows.

Such a person is Representative Christopher Hodgkins, who, like the late Silvio Conte, served in the Massachusetts state legislature. Not only has Chris ably represented us in Boston, but he never forgot any of his constituents, both the voters, and those who were non-voters as well; his constituents' problems were his problems too. He fought for improved telephone service, for continued bus serv-

ice in the Berkshires, for group homes for the disabled, legislation for the prevention of child abuse, appearing at local hearings on such issues. He gave shelter to an elderly man who was homeless at his Boston office until a home could be found for him.

Chris served in the House Committee of Human Services and Elderly Affairs and is a leader on the Committee on local affairs. Chris is a fighter, accessible, accountable, and totally honest. Let's send Chris to Congress.

John R. Copeland
Lee

And One for Sherwood Guernsey

To The Editor:

I never had the privilege of meeting Silvio Conte, but I feel like a lot of people—that he was a warm, compassionate, and understanding man. He knew how to deal with almost all of today's and yesterday's problems.

When I first came to the western part of the state, I called Congressman Conte's office on many occasions. His staff was always very helpful and treated me warmly and I got the help I needed. I will miss this man and I am sure a lot of others will too.

After about a year of living here and dealing with a lot of financial issues through Mr. Conte's help, I found myself having to deal with many other problems. I am an alcoholic and an addict and I put myself through twenty-five years of pain

and misery. The thing I learned most through all this was I needed help from all sorts of people. When I finally admitted I needed help, I humbled myself and reached out and found it.

I do a lot of twelve-step programs and now feel very good about myself. I am now a responsible and productive member of society. But I needed some important people to believe in me and that was hard to find.

One day I was directed to a state representative's office. Feeling like no one cared about my escape from the depths of hell, I found one of the biggest surprises of my life—a man who cared. After meeting with this man and talking with him for a short time, I realized that the system works. I found a warm, considerate, and compassionate man who knows how to talk about real problems and real solutions

and talked about these things with feeling and emotion. I never thought this possible in a politician. This man made me a believer in America and the American way. He helped me feel a new freedom I never thought possible.

For this, I pledge my vote and all the support I can give him should he decide to run for Congress. That person is Sherwood Guernsey.

Chester J. Sears
Lee

St. Mary's girls win WMass CYO title

St. Mary's of Lee won a Western Massachusetts diocesan CYO girls' basketball championship, defeating St. Peter's of Great Barrington 19-18 on Emmy McManmon's overtime buzzer-beater in the Grade 5-6 Parish Division.

The winning play began with six seconds left in overtime, as Lisa Puleri rebounded a missed foul shot and passed to Jessica Wilcox, whose long pass found McManmon under the basket. McManmon, the tournament MVP, scored eight points, and Wilcox had seven.

Wilcox had scored 10 and McManmon seven as St. Mary's advanced to the diocesan final with a 23-18 win over once-beaten Holy Cross of Springfield.

Others on the St. Mary's team are Erica Walzak, Kelly Doherty, Chrissy Arment, Terry Digrigoli, Candy Scapin, Stephanie Roosa, Christina Consolati, Kristin Scheurer, Meghann Hawley, Jessie Arment and Kristin Shepardson.

St. Mary's will be among three Berkshire County teams competing in the New England CYO tournament this weekend. Others are St. Agnes' of Dalton (Grade 5-6 girls' School Division) and Notre Dame of Pittsfield (Grade 7-8 boys' School Division.)

Kerry's meeting in Lee draws 100

By Mary Grace Butler
Special to The Eagle

LEE — America must get its economic act together if it is to solve the pressing social and political problems it faces now and in the next few years.

That was the primary message to emerge from Sen. John F. Kerry's open "town meeting" forum last night, when nearly 100 people gathered at Lee High School to hear and to ask questions of Massachusetts' junior senator.

'Stop tomfoolery'

The economic problems are serious, said Kerry, who expressed hope that after the remarkable "unity of focus" of American efforts in the Persian Gulf, "the president, Congress and the country will join together ... stop the tomfoolery of politics" and put "real issues on the table." It is very important, he said, that President Bush now use some of his large store of political capital on resolution of domestic issues.

This country must "wake up to some realities" and "stay ahead of the technology curve," Kerry said, by directing attention and assets to the environment, technology, education, the "real drug war" and getting people back to work.

Again and again, in his opening statement and in answer to questions from the floor, Kerry emphasized his belief that the country, and its political leadership, must take steps to rebuild economic strength.

New capital essential

New capital is essential, he said, yet in today's economy investors find it more attractive to put their money into other countries rather than into North Adams or Pittsfield and "places that are hurting."

To that end, he supports a targeted capital gains tax reduction to reward those willing to put money into start-up situations that create new jobs.

Specific points, said Kerry, in reinvigorating the national economy include increasing savings by allowing use of Individual Retirement Account funds for home purchases and education, a selected investment tax credit for retooling that would make industry more competitive internationally, establishment of an economic enterprise zone for any area that is a high-intensity drug zone — by definition, a "disaster

area" and a greater and permanent tax credit to promote research and development in industry.

'Smoke and mirrors'

Washington is sitting on a powder keg, he said, and "phony" budgets comprised of "smoke and mirrors" only make the situation worse.

The economic concerns were mirrored in his audience, which applauded several times during Kerry's remarks and at some of his answers, especially those that seemed closest to home.

Mary Flynn of Stockbridge was the first of several to commend Kerry, and the Massachusetts congressional delegation, for the January vote against the use of force in the Persian Gulf.

Yet his vote, Kerry said, was one on the timing of war, not on whether force should have been used. And now, there is a "terrible inconsistency and bitter, bitter irony" that, after liberating

This country must 'wake up to some realities,' said Kerry.

Kuwait, this country is "literally siding with Saddam Hussein" as he puts down the Kurds and Shiites who were incited to rise against him.

In response to a question from Ann Condon of Great Barrington on decriminalization of drugs, Kerry said he is not in favor of that approach; he believes a commitment by the country to change behavior and education could shift drugs from an epidemic to a nuisance. Attitudes on casual use have changed, he said, and decriminalization would license "yet another narcotic."

Not all the news was serious. Kerry opened the evening by expressing his pleasure at being in the "hallowed halls of the three-time state basketball champion," by presenting to Lee coach Tom Cinella a U.S. flag that had flown over the Capitol building.



Photo by Vern Lusier

Massachusetts Senator John Kerry traveled to Lee, ostensibly to talk about town government. But Lee also happens to be the hometown of Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, who's running hard in a Democratic primary for Congress. Many had hoped Kerry would endorse Hodgkins, who coordinated the western tier of Kerry's last Senate campaign. Kerry came and went, without giving Hodgkins that cherished endorsement. *Berkshire Record 4.5.91*

'Lethal Innocence' Filming Engrosses Lee

By Gina Gold *Berkshire Record 4.5.91*

LEE—"Rolling! Action!" screams a crewmember of "Lethal Innocence," the PBS American Playhouse film that began shooting in and around town last week.

An exterior scene is being filmed in the park in front of the First Congregational Church on Main St. A large camera slides along a pipe track that encircles a phone booth and a bench. Twenty some-odd crew members, carrying walkie-talkies or wearing headsets, look on.

"Hold for a truck!" someone yells as a sixteen-wheeler rounds the corner. When the action resumes, an elderly woman, actress Teresa Wright, stands in the phone booth talking and pouring coins into the slot. Next to her, a Cambodian teenager played by Vathana Biv, sits on the bench waiting. The phone booth and the bench are both props. A handful of extras, all local talent, pass unobtrusively in the background—a woman walking a dog, two small boys, and a couple. It is a brisk day, so between takes Wright and Biv are quickly wrapped in blankets.

The \$1.4 million dollar film

starring Blair Brown, is being co-produced by Tyringham resident Nan Bernstein and will air on PBS in November. More than a dozen locations, including stores, bars, homes and hospitals throughout Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, Great Barrington and surrounding areas will be the backdrop for the 90-minute drama.

"Lethal Innocence," is based on the true story of a Vermont town's efforts to reunite an adopted Cambodian refugee boy with his mother and sister by bringing them to the U.S. In the phone booth scene, Wright, playing a concerned local grandmother tries to help the teenager find his family in Cambodia. She is phoning the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok—one quarter at a time.

Turtleback Productions will spend an estimated \$300,000-\$400,000 locally for staff, services and site fees. During the 24 days of shooting, cameras and crew will be in and out of Jack's Department Store, Sullivan Station, Lee Power Equipment and Steve's Barbershop in Lee.

In Lenox, scenes will be shot at Edith Wharton's The Mount, which will serve as the U.S. Embassy and at the Springlawn mansion on Kemble St., which

will be a senator's office. Another building on the Kemble St. property will be a brothel on the Cambodian-Thai border. A location in the Stockbridge woods will serve as a Cambodian refugee camp and in Great Barrington scenes will be shot at Fairview Hospital and Searles Middle School where students will be used as extras. In a scene at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport, the Lee High School Band will welcome Cambodian refugee children.

Already "in the can" is footage shot at the home of Bruce and Carol Rumph on St. Ann's Avenue in Lenox and a scene at the Water Street Market in East Lee.

Kathleen Monteleone, an actress from Pittsfield and Sally Chamberlain of Sheffield are Blair Brown's stand-ins; Lise Laprell of Housatonic is art department coordinator; Kim Sorrentino of Lenox is assistant production coordinator; Barbara Shutz of Sheffield, is assistant to the set decorator; Thomas Hall of Pittsfield is transportation coordinator, Carl Sprague of Lenox is set designer; Shawn Morse of Great Barrington is assistant to the scenic designer.

Shooting will be completed by the end of April.

Cable TV Numbers Questioned

Berkshire Record

LEE — After much prodding, Century Berkshire Cable has released some financial justification regarding why they have increased their rates close to 100 percent in the past few years.

Edward G. McCormick, the attorney hired by Century Cable to sooth things over in Great Barrington after that town threatened to revoke the company's license, sent the figures with an accompanying letter to all members of the Cable Advisory Committee which assists all four towns serviced by Century — Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge.

According to Warren Syer, the chairman of the four-town committee and a member of Great Barrington's own advisory committee, the figures released by Century were 1989 figures.

Syer said that after talking to Philip Hopkins, General Manager of Century's Lee office, the state does not require cable companies to file their financial documents for 1990 until April 19. McCormick told Syer that those figures will be released "soon".

"At this point we're just asking for anything that we can get," said Syer.

"But even taking that attitude into consideration, these figures are insufficiently detailed to formulate any type of analysis."

Officials from all four towns under contract with Century Cable have complained about the succession of increases over the past two years. Specifically, they raised objection to last month's

Continued on Page A 12



Fire vigil

George Seile of High Lawn Farm, Lee, sits on a front-end loader while watching a pile of brush he was burning.

Eagle 4.5.91

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee Voters Will Decide Override

LEE—The voters will be asked to vote on an override of Proposition 2 1/2 at the May annual town meeting. In the unlikely event that all the special articles currently on the town warrant were to pass or actually come up for vote, it would mean an increase of \$1.5 million.

The selectmen, however, foresee that after the budget undergoes careful scrutiny and several departments pull non-essential articles, the override would fall between \$200,000 and \$600,000. A budget which they say reflects "level services" not "level funding."

Finance Committee Chairman Robert Trask says an override could only be avoided if extreme cuts were made in services and if the town's financial reserves were used.

The selectmen and the finance committee agree that the voters should decide whether they want to forfeit current services or pay more taxes. If they vote to cut services, it could mean, among other things, the elimination of two officers, several teachers, and up to 150 street lights. If they go with the override, they are looking at a 20 percent tax increase, meaning \$600 more will come out of each taxpayer's pocket next year.

The selectmen and the finance committee say they will present the "level services" picture to the town. Then, if the voters decide that an override is out of the question, the budget will be revamped.

The proposed town budget for fiscal 1992 is 9.3 million up \$425,000 from this year. The increase stems from a \$130,000 increase in the school budget and heavy capital expenditures.



'Inmates' telephone friends for contributions that will bail them out.

Photo by Gina Gold

Lee Luminaries 'Jailed' for Good Cause

By Gina Gold

LEE—Antique dealer and real estate developer Charles Flint was arrested last week for "crossing Stockbridge town lines for illegal purposes."

But the arresting officer was a phony; she was a volunteer for the Lee Bank Jail and Bail, a fundraising drive for the American Cancer Society.

A mysterious donor paid \$25 to have Flint arrested, handcuffed, and dragged to the Jail and Bail prison in the basement of the Lee Bank where he was sentenced to an hour of hard labor on the telephone.

There he was forced to raise \$500 bail which would go to the American Cancer Society. Flint was arraigned by American Cancer Society area director and judge Suzanne Liss who sported a black robe and white-powdered wig.

Liss read him his rights, "You have no rights!" she said and hammered a plastic gavel three times.

Flint was summarily dressed in the inmate's stripes, his mug shot was taken and he was thrown into the cell by Jail and Bail chairman and bailiff Susan Bartini and volunteer police officer Frank Sturgis. Flint joined

three other hardened criminals, WSBS radio announcer Dick Lindsay, Mead Paper Co. executive Joseph Byrne and ECH Will Manufacturing executive Art McManus. All three desperados were chained to their phones, fed only bread and water, well...coffee and donuts.

Liss said that this was the first Jail and Bail ever held in Lee but that the a South County drive held a few years back in Great Barrington was very successful. She adds that there will be another Jail and Bail in June in Pittsfield, the site to be determined.

Republicans at Lee caucus back Bailey for selectman

Eagle By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff 4.5.91

LEE — The yearly Republican caucus produced no surprises for the May 13 town election ballot, based on votes tallied Wednesday night at Lee Central School.

Twenty-five people cast ballots.

Gordon D. Bailey, a contractor and member of the Planning Board, won the nomination for selectman to succeed William D. Bean, who has chosen not to seek re-election. He received 20 votes.

Bailey, who is not a member of either political party, had sought endorsement in the Democratic caucus as well but was refused inclusion on the Democratic ballot on grounds he already was on the Republican ballot.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Edward M. Briggs said the committee's rule is that ballot positions are open to Democrats and independents but not to Republicans. Bailey countered that he is not a Republican, but rather an independent who happens to have been placed on the GOP ballot.

He said the Democrats had not announced a rule excluding independents who sought Republican endorsement when it invited potential candidates to submit their names. He said he felt the rules were being changed in the middle of the contest.

Briggs said this wasn't so, and added that he didn't understand the reason for Bailey's anger when Bailey was assured of two places on the final ballot. Bailey has also qualified as an independent candidate with nomination papers that were certified last month.

Taylor endorsed

For other offices, the Republicans will put up Timothy O. Taylor for the posts of town clerk and treasurer. He got 23 votes for each position. Edward F. Murray won endorsement for a seat on the Board of Assessors with 20 votes; Rosemary Bush Hughes received 21 votes for the five-year term on the Housing Authority, and David K. Chivers received 23 votes as the party's nominee for a three-year term on the School Committee.

Robert W. Lester, a member of the Community Development Corp., received six write-in votes for re-election to that body. Thomas Wickham received four write-ins for the Planning Board nomination, and Chester Wezevitz got 14 write-ins for one of the four constable positions.

It was unclear yesterday whether the recipients of write-in votes would sign acceptances. Not all were present during the caucus, when such acceptances are usually signed.

They have until the end of the day today to sign them.

The caucus turnout was about the same as in recent years, said Republican Town Committee secretary Janice G. Smith. Republican registration in Lee is low (277) compared to Democrats (757) and independents (2,025).

Tyringham girl writes a winner

By Lisa C. Kernek
Berkshire Eagle Staff

DALTON — Getting more than 70 adolescents to come to school on a Saturday morning to write stories is a feat many teachers would only dream about.

But every year Patrick M. West, a 7th grade English teacher at Nessacus Middle School in Dalton, holds a contest at the school for the best 7th grade writers in Berkshire County. The students have 90 minutes to write fiction or fact in response to a question posed at the contest.

Yesterday, in the 9th annual 7th Grade Berkshire County Writing Contest, a short story about a girl who cares for an injured fawn took the top prize for 12-year-old Louisa Gilder of Tyringham.

Competing against 7th graders from all but two junior high schools in Berkshire County, Gilder said she struggled to compose the story, which she based on the true story of a family friend who nursed a deer that had been hit by a car.

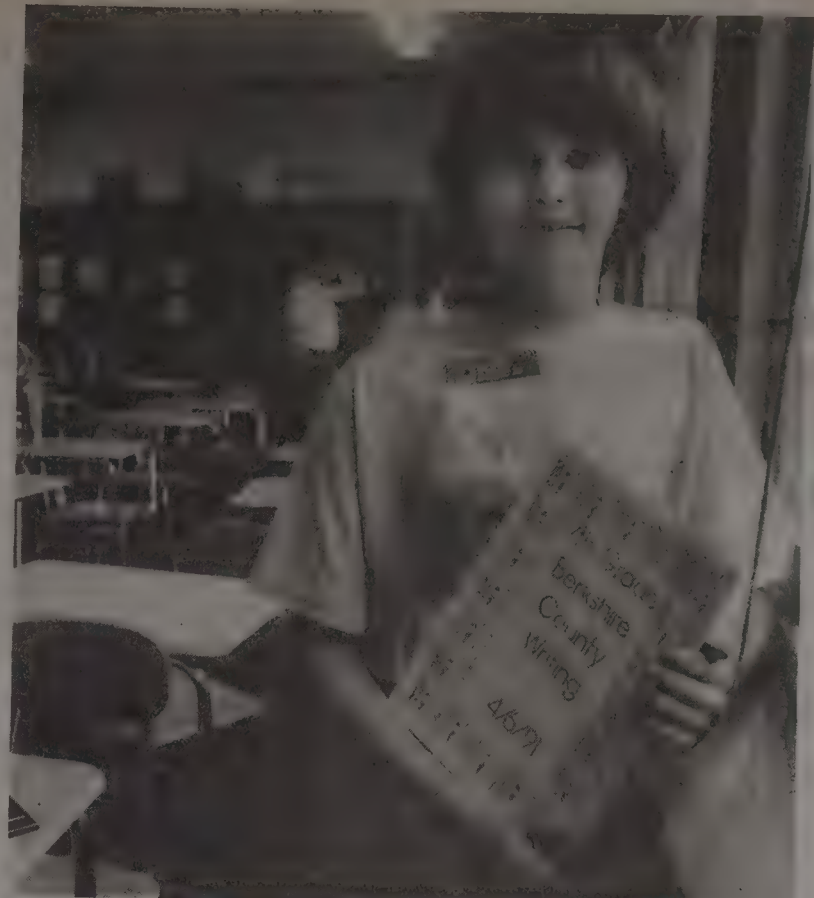
"I was just sitting there watching everyone write, and I couldn't think of anything," said Gilder, who attends St. Mary's School in Lee. "And then I thought of the deer."

If Gilder struggled to find an idea and finish on time, it did not show in her writing.

"It was like she planned it ahead of time," said judge Mary Kinnas, a teacher at Reid Middle School in Pittsfield. "At the end, she talks about a sheep that bleats goodbye as the deer is set free. The last line did it for me."

Filling two classrooms at Nessacus Middle School in Dalton, the 7th graders were asked to write for 90 minutes on "The best decision I ever made..."

In Gilder's story, the best decision



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Louisa Gilder's story about a deer that was hit by a car and nursed back to health was the winner among 70 essays at Nessacus School yesterday.

she makes is to set the fawn free after the animal recovers from a broken leg: "The sun had just crept over the hill as I entered the sheep barn," she wrote. "I led the fawn and Julie [the

sheep] out, and I slapped him. 'Go!' I cried. 'Go into the forest!'"

Another judge, Ellen Ennis, who teaches at Mount Greylock Regional

WRITERS, continued on B6

Chairmen appointed for Lee benefit auction

LEE — Donald Moffatt and Michael Armstrong, both of Lee, have been appointed chairmen of the 1991 Lee Youth Association Benefit Auction.

The sixth annual auction, "A Fun Event Under the Tent," is the major fund-raiser for the association and will be held on July 20 at the Town Park.

The goal is \$12,000, with the proceeds to be used for the renovation of the Community Center where the majority of the programs are held. Louis Caropreso of Lee and state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins will be the auctioneers.

Those interested in assisting or anyone seeking further information may call the LYA at 243-0717. The next auction meeting will be held April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

Hodgkins' advertising is a refreshing change

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I feel that P.J. Marcus [Letters, March 26] owes Chris Hodgkins an apology. Chris' political advertisement was in no way offensive or outrageous. In fact, I found it to be a refreshing change from the usual mudslinging tactics that one finds during an election. Chris only presented his past accomplishments in a very humorous way without putting down any of his opponents.

Maybe Mr. Marcus forgot Silvio Conte's own humorous tactics to get his messages across to the voters. A recent Gallup Poll showed that only 24 percent of Americans approve of the way Congress is doing its job. Maybe a young energetic maverick like Chris Hodgkins is just what we need in Congress to reinstate some of the intellectual honesty and courage that the House lacks these days.

Lee Eagle LOUIE FAILLA
4.7.91

Gilder is winning writer in 9th Nessacus contest

WRITERS, from B1

High School in Williamstown, said Gilder's story stood out "because of the emotion that came through. It wasn't overdone. It was very real and held together by a good story."

Ennis and Kinnas said that while all of the 70-some compositions they read were written well, the winner and the runners-up stood out.

"I guess when you correct papers as often as we do, you know what you're looking for," Kinnas said.

School-related topics, such as peer pressure to try drugs, were a popular theme in this year's competition, the judges said.

'Really fun'

Getting up early to write a paper on a Saturday may sound dull to the average 12-year-old. But these aspiring writers said they enjoyed the experience.

"It wasn't hard," said runner-up Kimberly Girard, the daughter of Donald and Ginny Girard of Adams. "It was really fun."

But then, the competition does have its perks. After the contestants finished their work for the day, brownies and cookies were served in the school library.

And while the judges were judging, the students were treated to advice from professional writers Paul Milenski of Pittsfield and Susan Slattery of Hinsdale.

"I write stories from things that hurt and from things that make me happy," Milenski told a student who asked what he wrote about.

Many of the stories written yes-

terday were told from an adolescent's point of view.

Runner-up Girard wrote about a girl whose "best decision" is to befriend some elderly neighbors. At the end of the story, one of the neighbors dies, and the main character is grateful to have known the woman before she died.

A girl who faces peer pressure to take drugs but decides against taking them is the central character of the story written by runner-up Christine Doktor, the daughter of Dorothy and Joseph Doktor of Peru.

The range of ideas and styles that the competition inspires never ceases to amaze West, who believes that "writing is thinking. It's too important to ignore, and we don't ignore it."

Winner Gilder, the daughter of Nini and George Gilder, has writing in her blood. Her father is the author of the non-fiction books "Wealth and Poverty," "The Spirit of Enterprise" and "Microcosm."

Besides Girard and Doktor, runners-up, given in no order, were Liam West, son of Patrick and Constance West of Dalton; Nicole Brown, daughter of Robert and MaryAnn Brown of Tyringham; Samantha Williams, daughter of Gary and Susan Williams of Great Barrington; and Rachel Clarke, daughter of Richard and Pamela Clarke of Great Barrington.

Winners of the awards for the best article in a magazine of 7th grade writing are Carrie Sparks, daughter of Jane and Eric Sparks of Lee, and Riisa Conklin, daughter of Jay and Christina Conklin of Stockbridge.

A Lee interchange would aid development

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Despite assertions by Selectmen Bill Bean of Lee, George Darey of Lenox and Mary V. Flynn of Stockbridge, not all residents of South County are obstructionists with regard to the proposed improvements to traffic on Route 7 [Eagle, March 28]. Count us as two residents of Lee who would like to see another interchange added to the turnpike, with additional bypasses of towns.

The main local improvement would be that the solemn daily parade of 18-wheelers, diesel fumes and all, down the main street of Lee would cease. The main countywide improvement would be that commercial traffic could get where it's going quickly enough to foster development in North County.

It's undeniably true that parts of the Berkshires need to be protected. On the other hand, we feel sorry for the truck drivers who have to take the obligatory tour of our South County landmarks en route to dropping off, say, machine parts or polymer raw materials in North County. People who think that the Berkshires are only a pastoral setting that needs to be protected from the 20th century are living on Fantasy Island.

4.9.91
Eagle ROBERT KELLY
MARY TYER KELLY
8 South Prospect St.
Lee

Campaign '91

Hodgkins calls for campaign reform

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, a candidate for his party's nomination to Congress has called for campaign finance reform.

Hodgkins said the present system forces candidates to spend too much time raising money, leaving too little time for campaigning.

He said he supports public financing of elections through such measures as the Senate Election Ethics Act, proposed this year by U.S. Sens. George J. Mitchell, D-Maine, and David L. Boren, D-Okla.

Hodgkins also voiced support for the campaign finance reforms proposed by the Pioneer Valley Pro-Democracy Campaign, adding that he wished all candidates for the Democratic nomination had agreed to it in advance. The proposal called for a ceiling of \$250,000, with 80 percent of that to be raised in the district and none to come from political action committees.

He said that unless all candidates were bound by that rule, any candidate "taking the Pro-Democracy Campaign's pledge would be left at a serious disadvantage with heavily financed opponents like state Sen. Linda J. Melconian."

"With Linda Melconian out there raising money left and right from the insurance companies she's supposedly regulating as chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, the rest of us have to run to keep up," he said.

Deely and Bailey face off for Lee selectman

p. 72

Eagle 4.7.91
LEE — Town Democrats in caucus balloting have nominated Martin H. Deely for selectman to face Gordon D. Bailey in the annual town election May 13, assuring a contest for that seat and four others.

The other four positions are town clerk, town treasurer and single seats on the Planning Board and Housing Authority.

The caucus, conducted Thursday night, gave 90 votes to Deely for selectman, 91 to Patricia D. Carlino both for town clerk and town treasurer, 47 to Sallie Kate Kish for the Planning Board and 78 to Frank V. McCarthy for the vacant seat on the Housing Authority.

Ninety-nine of the town's 757 Democrats voted.

Republican nominations

Contests are assured because town Republicans, besides nominating Bailey for selectman, nominated Timothy O. Taylor for town clerk and treasurer, and Rosemary Bush Hughes for the five-year seat on the Housing Authority.

The Planning Board contest will come about because retired jeweler Aldo Pasucci has won a place on the May 13 ballot as an independent by virtue of nomination papers. He will, therefore, be up against Kish.

Bailey, the selectman candidate, has also qualified for the

ballot as an independent. So has Carlino.

The Democratic caucus also nominated veteran Moderator Joseph Toole for re-election with 90 votes, Judith L. Olds for re-election to the School Committee for three years with 58 votes, Karen Norton for the three-year seat on the Board of Health with 70 votes and William Derrick for the three-year seat on the Board of Assessors with 87 votes.

Nominated as constables were Pauline Pollard, 76 votes; John Wheeler, 61 votes; and John Piacquadio, 57 votes. All are incumbents and are assured of re-election because no challengers are on the horizon.

There are four constabular posts to be filled, the fourth one nailed down by incumbent Edward Herlihy, an independent, who has successfully filed nomination papers.

Town Republicans on Wednesday nominated David K. Chivers for the School Committee, but there are two seats vacant; so, he and Olds are virtually assured of election. Republicans nominated no one for moderator or the Board of Health seat; so, Toole and Norton, respectively, appear assured of election.

For assessor, the GOP nominated Edward F. Murray, but he will be on the ballot for the one-year seat to complete the term of John J. Nagle, not the three-year seat for which Derrick is running.

Also to be filled are three three-year seats on the Community Development Corp., but there are only two nominees so far, Francis Foley and Robert W. Lester. Both are incumbents.

Lester won six write-in votes at the GOP caucus Wednesday night but didn't need them. Carlino, who is assistant town clerk, said incumbents can signify they want

to seek re-election by submitting letters to the town clerk's office. Lester and Foley will do so if they have not already done so, she said.

Voters will also be asked to elect 18 town meeting representatives, three from each of the six town meeting districts, for three years each. No contests are foreseen.

Lee may put an end to partisan caucuses

Eagle By Gerald B. O'Connor 4.10.91
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee voters next month will have a chance to do away with the political party caucuses that have served as the town's primary elections for decades.

Lee is one of only 25 towns in the commonwealth still holding partisan caucuses, according to the elections division of the attorney general's office.

The Selectmen on a 2-1 vote Monday night approved the proposal, which will be part of the May 9 annual town meeting warrant and the May 13 annual election ballot as well.

If approved, the political caucuses will be replaced with a single non-partisan caucus. Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont said independent, or unaffiliated, voters outnumber party members by just about 2 to 1. Candidates could still get on the election ballot by collecting signatures on nominating papers, as they can today, Dupont said.

If the plan is adopted, the top two candidates for any elected office, as chosen by the caucus, would compete in the annual town election.

Roosa against change

There was not unanimity on this.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa said she believed the party caucus system as it has existed in Lee is one that doesn't need fixing. Even though the voters will have a say on the new proposal, she observed, the ultimate authority is the town meeting, "and I don't think 54 people should be the ones to decide this."

She referred to the town meeting representatives, who, according to Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, are the final arbiters.

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino, who was present for the discussion, said the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican town committees might have been consulted first.

Stephen Cozzaglio, town GOP chairman, said yesterday he had no objection to the idea. "You might have candidates more willing to get involved if [the caucus] was non-partisan," he said.

Dupont and Selectman William D. Bean cast the affirmative votes to put the issue on the ballot.

Lee is one of only 25 towns in the state that still have political party caucuses.

Dupont said it was his idea.

"I've felt for some time that since the parties are so unbalanced here and we have such a heavy concentration of independents, it was time that the town meeting was asked to change to a non-partisan caucus," he said.

Bean agreed with the sentiment but was the one who proposed putting the issue before the voters as well. "I think it ought to go to the voters even though it's not required," he said.

Most are independents

There are 2,025 registered voters who are independent, or not affiliated with either party. There are 757 Democrats and 277 Republicans.

Lee is one of only 25 towns in the commonwealth that still schedule political caucuses, which are, in effect, simple primary elections before a general election. There are 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Most of them — 213 towns, three cities and two council communities — have general elections only. Others use primaries, preliminary elections or non-partisan caucuses.

The dictionary definition of caucus is "a private meeting of leaders or a committee of a political party or faction to decide on policy, pick candidates etc."

In Lee, caucuses have been public and have been used to pick candidates, although candidates can also place themselves on the election ballot as independents by filing nomination papers.

Dupont said he believed a non-partisan caucus would generate greater interest in town governmental affairs.

But Roosa didn't buy that. In fact, she said she "resented" the abruptness with which it was brought up. "I think anything that requires the Selectmen to act ought to be discussed first."

For first time Lee will consider override

Eagle 4.10.91

LEE — The Selectmen voted Monday night to include the town's first proposed tax override on the May 13 election ballot, but they will have to wait a week or so to determine how large the override will be.

If approved, it will be the town's first override since enactment of tax-limiting Proposition 2½ in 1981, although not the first time voters will have taken action to ease the law's restrictions.

The tentative budget for the town in the fiscal year starting July 1 is \$8.6 million but is still subject to change.

The Selectmen also made plans for a special town meeting to take place at 7 p.m. on May 9, just ahead of the annual town meeting that night at 7:30. It will be needed, they said, to enact fund transfers and take other financial actions to continue town services without interruption until the end of the present fiscal year June 30.

Deadline pressure

Waiting a week to determine the override amount will put pressure on the town's printing timetable for the warrant and annual town report.

The report, which will contain the warrant and election ballot, is scheduled to be printed between April 22 and April 29. Most of the

material that goes into it was turned over the printing company, Jack Murphy Printer at 30 Canal St., by Monday night's deadline — except for the town meeting warrant.

The printing schedule calls for proofs to go back to the Selectmen next Monday, and amended proofs back to Murphy April 22, a week later, for the final run of 2,500 copies. Murphy said yesterday it looks as if the report will be larger than last year's, which contained 100 pages.

Dollar figures can be inserted into the warrant articles during the week that town officials have the proof sheets for review.

Last week, it looked as if the override would have to be \$185,000 above the maximum allowable tax levy of \$4,865,537.

But there have been some changes since then. Finance Committee Chairman Robert Trask said nearly \$90,000 — \$44,000 in Police Department salary increases and \$45,000 in non-teacher pay increases in the School Department — had been added to proposed expenditures in the past week.

The sum may be offset, however, by an infusion of state road-repair money that would come to Lee from a two-year highway bond issue approved a week and a half ago by the Legislature.

Lee's designated allotment is \$282,000 over the next two years, half, or \$141,000, to be spent each year. If received — and town officials are careful these days to emphasize the "if" — the state funds could enable the town to save \$100,000 of its own funds for road improvements in the coming year, thus canceling the \$90,000 increase in salary accounts.

On the other hand, officials are waiting for a major school budget addition: the pay increases negotiated by the School Committee and the Lee Education Association for the town's public school teachers. The problem is that the next negotiating session between negotiators for the LEA and the School Committee is not until April 23, a day after the town meeting warrant goes to the printer for the final time.

Instructional salaries make up \$2.2 million of the projected \$4.3 million school budget, which itself will be about half of the overall town budget of some \$8.6 million.

Bean against override

Talk among the Selectmen and Finance Committee Monday night reached no conclusion on how to pay for a budget that does no more than keep town services at their present levels but has to go up to stay abreast of inflation.

Selectmen Joseph F. Dupont and William D. Bean said they did not favor calling for an override. Dupont eventually voted for it, along with Selectman Diane P. Roosa, but Bean remained adamant. Unemployment has jumped in Lee over the past year from 6 percent to 11 percent of the work force, he said, and chances of "passing an override are even slimmer than last year."

Voters did not approve an override last year, but they did approve an exemption of bonded indebtedness from the Proposition 2½ restrictions, which is somewhat the same. The debt they exempted was \$710,000 that the town meeting authorized to help purchase additional land around the town landfill for landfill expansion.

The overall authorization was for \$1,065,000, but \$355,000 was to be covered by available funds.

None has been spent, although the Board of Public Works says it wants to pursue the land acquisition over the coming summer. Two weeks ago, the board voted to hire Foresight Land Services of Pittsfield to survey the three parcels of land the board wants to acquire for the landfill expansion.

Foresight, which was one of several bidders for the job, will be paid \$5,000.

LETTERS

Hodgkins Has Conte Vigor

To The Editor

My family and I have fond memories of visiting Congressman Silvio O. Conte in Washington and prize our photo with him in his office.

However, when remembering our distinguished representative the image that immediately springs to mind is of a man wearing a pig's snout mask remonstrating Congress about pork barrel legislation. There on the national evening news was our beloved Pittsfield politician giving them hell on Capital Hill. That guy was a real character and I think that is part of what endeared him to so many (from both sides of the aisle).

Personally, while never having much affinity for the Republican viewpoint, I always voted for Mr. Conte and was rarely disappointed with his performance. Indeed, a smile always seems to cross my face when thinking about how effective Sil Conte's performances were over the years. Mr. Conte was a superlative politician of sterling character.

Now faced with having to decide who will replace Mr. Conte and scanning the field of candidates, a similar reaction occurs when thinking about the dedication, service and effectiveness of Chris Hodgkins. It is Mr. Hodgkins who seems to possess that similar mixture of vigor, concern and wit which persists to get the job done.

Chris has gone this extra mile in this district to address our concerns. His sincerity and enthusiasm in defense of the concerns of the common people of our commonwealth are uncommon especially in these days of trickle down economics. Like Mr. Conte, Chris is not afraid to take on the vested interests while also being sensitive to

the needs of business to help fuel our economic fires. If his methods seem slightly outrageous to some sensibilities - well, you can't please all the people all the time.

To paraphrase a recent debate, he's no Sil Conte, but Chris would never pretend to be, and who among the field could honestly claim to fill those shoes. However, just as Mr. Conte emerged as a force in Washington, Chris has demonstrate similar attributes and abilities which will result in returning smiles of satisfaction to the faces of constituents in the First Congressional District. Chris Hodgkins can best continue and work to expand the legacy of Silvio Conte. It is Christopher Hodgkins who represents our best and brightest hope for the future.

Lee

Neil Clarke

p. 73

Override Vote -- Town's First -- Likely

LEE -- Voters during the May 13 elections will face their first tax override question since the inception in 1981 of Proposition 2 1/2.

Only the amount remains in doubt.

The Selectmen Monday voted to include the question even though they still do not know the size of the school budget and are reluctant to assume the town will receive about \$140,000 from the state for road repairs.

Salaries make up about half of the \$4.3 million school budget but the next negotiating session between the school committee and the Lee Education Association will not be until April 23, a day after the warrant for the town meeting must be at the printers.

The tentative budget for the coming year stands at \$8.6 million, about \$185,000 over the maximum taxable limit under Proposition 2 1/2 of \$4,863,000.

Since last week's meeting, Finance Committee chairman Robert Trask said Monday, \$44,000 in police salaries and \$45,000 in non-teacher pay in-

creases had been added to the budget. If the state road improvement money comes in (emphasis on the "if," he said) the town would save about \$100,000 in its own road repair accounts which, in turn, would cover the increases in the those two salary accounts.

Even though they won't know the precise amount of an override until next week, selectmen Joseph Dupont and Diane Roosa ultimately voted in favor of one Monday. Selectman William Bean, however, voted no, citing the fact that unemployment in Lee has risen from 6 to 11 percent over the past year, making chances for passage slim.

The Board also scheduled a special town meeting for 7 p.m. on May 9 -- half an hour ahead of the annual town meeting -- to deal with some financial matters necessary to keep town services running until the end of the present fiscal year June 30.

On another annual meeting idea -- to do away with political party caucuses to select candidates for town offices -- the Selectmen voted, again 2-1, in favor of placing the question on the warrant.

Lee is one of some 25 towns in the commonwealth which still holds partisan caucuses, according to election officials.

If the item is approved, the party caucuses will be replaced with a single non-partisan caucus. Independent or unaffiliated voters in Lee outnumber party members about 2 to 1. Registrations in Lee show 2,025 Independent or unaffiliated voters, 757 Democrats and

Homemade Food At Church Sale

SOUTH LEE -- Chili, vegetable casseroles, spaghetti sauce, baked beans, soups and desserts -- all homemade -- will be on sale at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Main St. here April 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Episcopal Church women's group will hold the food sale as a part of several fund raising events this year to support their own work as well as that of the church locally and the Diocese. Food will be available in microwave containers for easy reheating.

For further information contact Pat Tyler at 243-0272.

Parties Endorse Candidates

LEE -- The town Republican caucus last week endorsed Gordon D. Bailey as candidate for Selectman. Mr. Bailey, an independent candidate, was not placed on the ballot for the Democratic caucus, and complained of the party's local rules and regulations as a consequence.

The Democrats have endorsed Martin H. Deely as candidate for Selectman.

There will be a race for the post of town clerk and treasurer. The Democrats are backing Patricia D. Carlino, the Republicans Timothy O. Taylor.

The election will be held May 13.

277 Republicans.

Candidates still could have their names placed on election ballots via the petition method, Mr. Dupont said.

Should the plan be adopted, the board said, the top two candidates as selected by the caucus for any office would compete in the annual town election with any candidate who might seek ballot representation via the petition route.

Selectman Diane Roosa voted against the proposal.

Bailey Poster Wins Award

LEE -- Adrian Bailey of Lee Central School won honorable mention in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's 1991 earth Day poster contest. Her poster was on the theme "Earth Day 1991: Kids Keep it Green." There were 37 winners statewide.

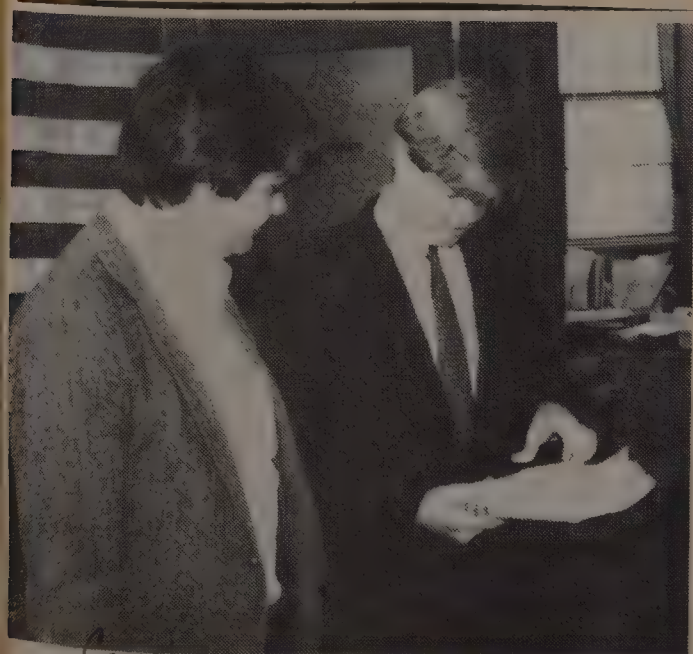
Winning posters were displayed at the 1991 New England spring flower show.

Story Hour Scheduled

LEE -- The Lee Library will begin the spring session for its preschool story hour April 11. It will continue through June 6. Sessions are held Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. To register, phone 243-0385. There will be no program May 16. Children should be three years or older. Registration is limited to the first 15.

Reports For Duty

LEE -- Navy Fireman Christopher M. Abderhalden, son of Bette Abderhalden of this town, recently reported for duty aboard the frigate USS Truett, homeported in Norfolk, Va. A 1988 graduate of Lee High School, he joined the Navy in May 1989.



Courier 4.11.91
Photo by Bernard Drew
David Dempsey, left, presented Rep. Christopher Hodgkins with petitions signed by Southern Berkshire residents asking Gov. William Weld to keep the Great Barrington Registry of Motor Vehicles office open. It is scheduled to close this week.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Production assistant Brian MacDonald lends a hand to veteran actress Teresa Wright as she crosses the tracks at

Sullivan Station in Lee. A railroad car and the restaurant were in scenes shot for the movie 'Lethal Innocence.'

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Movie making enlivens spring in Berkshires

Eagle 4.11.91

LEE — Rico Smachetti, who most days wears the uniform of the Police Department, turned up yesterday noon in a maroon sweater, gray slacks and a jaunty hat. It was a great disguise, because for a minute Barbara Keenan didn't know who he was.

But he didn't fool Mary Lou Dadak, Lee's town accountant, who was dressed pretty jauntily herself.

All three had arrived outside Sullivan's Station on Railroad Street to work as extras in a television movie being filmed in Lee and various other Berkshire towns this month.

They grinned and waved as Carol Marino drove by and tooted her horn. "Ask her if she wants our autographs," Smachetti said.

Yesterday was the 12th in a scheduled 24-day shooting schedule set by the movie company, Turtleback Productions.

Scene at airport

The filming has evidently proved a boon to this area. Some 200 extras, including the 35-member Lee High School band, will have taken part in one scene or another by the time the project ends April 24 or 25. The band will play in one of the most populous scenes

EXTRAS, continued on B3

Filming of movie adds excitement

■ EXTRAS, from B1

in the film, to be shot today at Pittsfield Municipal Airport.

Although there have been occasional complaints — over halting traffic momentarily in downtown Lee last week while a street scene was filmed, for instance, or over a company suggestion that an American flag in front of Kelly Funeral Home was hung vertically with the star field on the wrong side — there have been no disruptions, said Smachetti.

"It's given a little uplift to the town," he said.

"And they're spending money here," he added.

Extras are paid \$50 a day. "Yes, a \$50 bill," said Dadak with a hint of awe.

Caterers are hired on a rotating basis to provide hot lunches each day to the cast and crew, more than 60 people in all. According to terms of the contract between the industry and its unions, vegetarian dishes must be available, along with the meat and potatoes.

Yesterday, it was Joseph Sorrentino's turn to take lunch from his restaurant, Joe's Diner, to the crew, who were eating at the Senior Center. In a day or two, it will be another caterer's turn, said location manager Brian Howard.

The film, at the moment titled "Lethal Innocence," is to be shown on public television's "American Playhouse" series in November. It is about the adoption of Cambodian refugees by American families in a New England town.

Inside restaurant

Sullivan's Station, the restaurant in what used to be Lee's railroad depot, was the location yesterday afternoon. During the morning, actors, director and cameramen had squeezed into a railroad car belonging to Berkshire Scenic Railway on the old New Haven Railroad tracks just south of the depot.

Now it was midday, and the people who operate the cameras, string the electrical cable, put up the lights, guard the doorways, deliver the messages and yell things like "Rolling film!" and "Quiet!" were mostly inside Sullivan's. The scene, naturally, was a restaurant interior. The principal actors, including such prominent contemporary players as Blair Brown and Brenda Fricker, were talking over lunch.

Once director Helen Whitney called for them, extras like Smachetti, Keenan and Dadak, who would fill in the empty chairs, wait on table or, as in Smachetti's case, stand at the bar.

"I think I'll have a martini," said Smachetti, deadpan.

Julia Lord, who lives in West Stockbridge and is the company's coordinator of extras, walked up.

Her local charges, many of them found at the Lee Senior Center when she was signing up residents a month ago, have been enjoyable to work with, she said. That's because they are fresh and interested in what they're doing.

"Union extras," she said, "are very jaded."

Hurry and wait

But the locals have learned that the job of movie making seems to require a tolerance for waiting around.

No one could specify how many of the hours in a typical 12-hour day are actually spent filming usable action or dialogue, but it apparently is a small number. "Maybe an hour," suggested Christo Morse, a production assistant who lives in Stockbridge.

In the morning, when the scene

was the interior of the railroad car, the sequence was filmed at least four times. Afterward, director Whitney and two of the actors stepped down from the car and stood next to the tracks outside for a "wild sound" sequence.

This, explained Morse, was a recording of their voices for inclusion at a point in the film where the pair, Vathana Biv and Teresa Wright, are seen from an angle that does not show their faces or the movement of their mouths.

Their conversation was recorded four times before Whitney thought it was right.

The 60 or so people that make up this crew are split into at least a dozen "departments" that embrace electricians, grips, set dressers, hair/makeup people, artists, drivers, property managers, sound technicians and accountants, to say nothing of directors and actors.

Costly equipment

The equipment and material on the set, guessed first assistant director Howard McMaster, is probably worth \$1 million. Most of this is centered, he said, in the two Panavision camera bodies and accompanying lenses.

But there are trucks, an electrical generator, lights, standards, light-filtering screens and thousands of feet of electrical cable that add to the total.

And amid the scheduling and shooting and locating is an effort to get what are called product placements, a kind of quid pro quo that helps movie companies — particularly those working on public television budgets — to stretch their dollars.

Production coordinator Randy Sokol, for example, has made deals with companies like Bonanza Bus Lines of Providence, R.I.; Polar Corp. of Worcester; New Morning Inc. of Acton; Mad River Traders of Riverside, Conn.; the Energy Food Factory of Greenfield, and Miller Brewing Co. to show their products in scenes in the film in exchange for free products or services.

Bonanza, for instance, is delivering the film daily to New York City for developing and conversion to videotape, and then is bringing it back the next day for directors and producers to see.

The other companies are food purveyors, many of them of natural foods, and the snack bars at each day's location are usually filled with cans of Polar soda, or New Morning breakfast cereal, or Pop Rice and the like.

And once the filming is over, nearly all the workers will try to line up new jobs. "We're all freelancers, you might say," said Jack Poor of Lenox, who is a grip, a technician who handles lights and lighting.

Lining up work, he said, depends on performance and contacts made along the way. "You're only as good as your last job," he said.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Oscar-winning actress Teresa Wright is appearing in a movie being made in Lee and other locations in the Berkshires.

4.11.91

72-year-old actress recalls early days of movie making

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The difference in movie making today from when she won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in "Mrs. Miniver," said Teresa Wright with a smile, "is about 50 years."

Wright is one of the principal players in the movie called "Lethal Innocence" being filmed in the Berkshires and causing a bit of a stir wherever its trucks and cameras and crew members show up each day.

Her name may not come as readily to mind today as those of some of her colleagues on the set, but there was a time when it did. She is 72 now, but the smile that appealed to a generation of moviegoers in the 1940s, when "Mrs. Miniver" appeared, is still present.

And being in the Berkshires is nothing very new. She is a long-time friend of actor William Roerick, who has a home in Tyringham, and has appeared in summer theater productions here, the most recent "The Road to Mecca" a year ago at the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge.

Although playing in public-television productions is not a salary gold mine, she likes the work, she said. "It's a good script and a good part," she said, "and I love the things 'American Playhouse' does."

What has changed in film since the "Mrs. Miniver" era, she suggested in a brief interview yesterday, is the demand for realism. Most movies today, she said, are filmed on location instead of in huge sound stages or movie lots, "and the general feeling is that you gain more" from the reality of scenery and action on location.

When she appeared in an Alfred Hitchcock film, "Shadow of a Doubt," in 1943, she said, the filming was done in Santa Rosa, Calif., "a town never used as a location." It was chosen to represent a Middle American town and was considered a daring departure for those days.

"But when we thought we were reflecting reality, there was still that star system," she mused, "where the stars were always well-dressed, always made up by the best designers. . . .

"I think people went to the movies more for escapism then." Wright is not planning to retire, but will not look immediately for a new role once "Lethal Innocence" is finished, she said.

She lives in Norwalk, Conn., and enjoys visits from her two children, a son and daughter, and two grandchildren, one 18 and the other 4.



Eagle

4.11.91

Associated Press

Lee's Kelsey Scarpa, left, comes home with a run after a passed ball in the fourth inning of the Wildcats' 17-5 softball win over St. Joseph's yesterday. Crusader hurler Jen DeGrandis covers home, but can't come up with the ball, seen at right.

Lee meeting to weigh need for a town administrator

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

4.12.91

LEE — The Lee Selectmen have scheduled an informational meeting for 7:30 p.m. on April 2 on the subject of a town administrator form of government and are encouraging "all Lee citizens" to attend.

It will be held at the Senior Center in the Airolti Building on Railroad Street.

Lee citizens, at least those who are registered to vote, ought to be interested because they will be asked on May 13 at the annual town election to accept or reject the 1990 legislation creating a selectmen-administrator form of government for the town.

The legislation, Chapter 471 of the Acts of 1990, says a majority vote in the affirmative will implement the terms of the bill, which requires that the Board of Selectmen "shall, by unanimous vote, appoint, as soon as practicable, for an indefinite term, a town administrator who shall be qualified by education, training and previous full-time experience to perform the duties of the office."

The present Board of Selectmen, consisting of Joseph F. Dupont, William D. Bean and Diane P. Roosa, backs the pro-

fiscal officer. The terms of the legislation are that he or she have a bachelor's degree and five years of previous supervisory experience in public-sector administration or a master's degree and three years of experience.

Since early 1988, the plan has been approved by a town meeting, which submitted the plan to the Legislature, and then by the Legislature, which passed it in its present form last December. One requirement of the act is that the administrator form of government be approved by town voters, if not this year, then next.

Money in warrant

The Selectmen have included on the warrant for the upcoming annual town meeting a line item of \$45,000 as the prospective salary for an administrator. The amount is in line with administrators' salaries in other Massachusetts municipalities roughly Lee's size.

The 1980 census puts the town's population at 6,247, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association says the salary range in towns from 4,300 to 6,800 people is from \$34,000 to \$49,100.

"For all communities in the state, regardless of size, that have administrators," said Sheila

Cheimetz, executive director of the MMA, "the population size ranges from 4,300 people to 23,000 people." The salary range over the entire spectrum, she said, is \$34,000 to \$62,800.

A \$45,000 salary would be in the bottom third of that range, she added.

Kaiser is named disaster chairman for North Adams

NORTH ADAMS — The Berkshire County chapter of the American Red Cross has appointed Ellen Kaiser of North Adams to serve as the Red Cross volunteer disaster chairman for that city.

Kaiser will be on call when house fires and other disasters occur that might result in individuals and families being left temporarily homeless.

Usually notified by the Fire Department when a house fire occurs, the Red Cross volunteer is responsible for providing the immediate needs of shelter, food and clothing for the victims.

Kaiser is president of Kids Choice Inc. and is a volunteer with the Mohawk Theatre Guild.

James J. Burns of St. Mary's Top Finalist in Geography Bee

Berk. Record
4.12.91

LEE — A sixth-grader from St. Mary's Grammar School in Lee was one of the top finishers in the statewide National Geographic Bee held last week in a suburb of Boston.

From a field of 104 participants from all over the Commonwealth James J. Burns, son of Richard J. and Alba M. Burns of 190 West Park Street, captured seventh place in the contest held at Winchester High School last Friday.

The national bee is part of the Geographic Society's effort to help improve geographical education. The questions asked during the contest pertain directly to geography as well as how current events in the world connect with that subject.

In the preliminary round

that day, Burns successfully answered 7 of the nine questions asked. In order to move into the final round, he had to correctly respond to three tie-breaker inquiries. In the championship round, Burns answered three questions to earn seventh place overall.

In order to qualify for the statewide event Burns won first place in the preliminary contest held at St. Mary's. He then took a written exam to qualify for the state competition.

First place in the bee was taken by Edward Cohn, a 13-year-old from Otis Junior High School. Cohn will now go to the National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C., in May to compete for the top prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship.

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Lee Advised To Anticipate An Override

Berk. Record 4.12.91

LEE — Finance Committee chairman Robert Trask told the selectmen that if services are to remain level with last year, the town will require an override on Proposition 2 1/2. If voters agree to an override, it would be the first time since the tax limiting proposition was instituted in 1981.

Although the most recent override figure stated was \$185,000 above the annual operating budget of \$4,863,537, Trask said he would not have any concrete amount until April 16th, the printing deadline for the town warrant. Even then, he said, the figure will be inaccurate because it will not reflect wage increases for teachers, police and highway workers; their negotiations are not scheduled to begin until the end of April.

Town counsel Jerome J. Scully told Trask and the selectman that if they want the override question to appear on the May election ballot, some figure, any figure, must go on the warrant now.

The selectmen voted 2-1 to include the question. Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont and Diane P. Roosa agreed that the finance committee should come up with an approximate figure now to insure that the question gets on the ballot at all. Selectman William D. Bean opposed the override, saying it was unthinkable to raise taxes when the town is facing 11-percent unemployment.

Town officials agreed that, although numerous scheduling complications will ensue, a real figure could be hashed out by representatives at the May 9th town meeting and voted on at the June 6th congressional election. It is hoped that by May 9th, labor negotiations will be complete and an exact figure for the town operating budget will be known. However, if the negotiations are not complete by then, a special town meeting will be necessary before the June election.

It gets more complicated. No matter what changes are made

Robert M. Kelly: He Hangs History

Berkshire Record
By Gina Gold 4.12.91

LEE—"I don't know anyone else who does what I do," says Robert M. Kelly, a master craftsman whose specialty is hanging historic wallpaper. Based out of his home on South Prospect Street, Kelly is known nationally for his historic paperhanging techniques and is a much sought after consultant.

Kelly, a Pittsfield native, transitioned from house painting to paperhanging fifteen years ago. "When I was painting, people kept asking me about wallpaper. Finally, I took the hint," Kelly enrolled in an eleven week course offered by the U.S. School of Professional Paperhanging in Rutland, Vermont. His studies took him to Manhattan for three years. Ten years ago he moved back to Berkshire County. As his career progressed he became increasingly fascinated by historic wallpaper.

"It's an infinitely interesting subject," he says. "People don't realize that wallpaper is a useful social document; it is a language of decoration. You can learn a lot about a period by looking at design, but you also learn about people by understanding why they picked a certain wallpaper."

Today Kelly's fascination with wallpaper leads him on regular research jaunts to the design library at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York and to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. Historic estates at which Kelly has hung wallpaper include Martin Van Buren's "Lindenwald," "Road Forks" in Northampton, the home of Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, and the Prestwold Plantation in Clarkeville, Va.

"When I work at a historic home, my job as a craftsman is to help the curator by being historically accurate as well as very good," Kelly says. It's important that all the products he uses are acid-free so that historic fabrics are not damaged. "Kelly mixes his own paste, the type used on historic documents like the Declaration of Independence."

"My work in historic homes has to last a long time," Kelly adds. But at the same time, he notes that the wallpaper must be easy to remove in the event that a room is changed. Acid-free lining paper is used to smooth out old stone and plaster walls, which are susceptible to changes in the environment.

To achieve an authentic look, Kelly insists on using historic paperhanging techniques. Prior to technological improvements in printing, wallpaper designs were irregular so paperhangers



Photo contributed

would overlap seams one-half to two inches. Although most of wallpapers that he hangs are reproductions, he is called on occasionally to put up antique wallpapers. "It can get pretty dicey," he says. "I've never come across anything that couldn't be done, but it can be nerve-racking; antique paper is brittle

and fragile.

Currently Kelly is working at the Van Schuyler Mansion in Albany. He is a consultant for Naumkeag and a frequent guest speaker at national trade conventions. He also contributes regularly to numerous trade magazines. Recently, Kelly gave a workshop on his

Robert Kelly at work on historic wallpaper.

toric wallpaper at Sturbridge Village.

Though there are several experts in the field of historic wallpaper design, Kelly says he is the only craftsman he knows of that specializes in historic wallpaper hanging. "That's why I started the 'Wallpaper Reproduction News,'" he says. Kelly is publisher. He

sends the newsletter to museum professionals at institutions like Williamsburg and the Hermitage.

"What I do is a very specialized, very unique craft," he says. "Unfortunately it's been a neglected field, but there are signs that interest is beginning to take off."

Chris Hodgkins 6.24.91
for Congress 4.16.91

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—
On Primary Day, April 30 and Election Day, June 30 this year the people of Berkshire County can once again have a powerful voice in the U.S. Congress by electing state Rep. Christopher Hodgkins, D-Lee.

Since 1982, Chris has provided the citizens of Southern Berkshire County with excellent representation in Boston. He has sponsored or co-sponsored legislation that has benefited not only his constituents, but people throughout Massachusetts. He has helped our children, our seniors, the one in five children living in poverty, the slow learner, the physically and emotionally disadvantaged, battered women and men, rape and crime victims and the homeless. (Chris once gave shelter to a homeless man in his Boston office until a shelter could be found for him.)

He headed a House investigation into the death of Tim Shepard and the other cadets injured at the state Police Academy of Agawam, refusing to let this case be whitewashed.

He fought to save our bus service in the Berkshires last May. He fought against rate hikes on telephone service until our phone service was improved. He is fighting the electric companies on raising rates. He is continually working toward keeping our land, rivers, woods and our air from being polluted.

Chris has fought to preserve farm land from uncontrolled development, and was the only representative in the Berkshires who voted against repeal of the sales tax on business services. Chris Hodgkins has political courage, is accessible, accountable and totally dedicated.

I urge his election to Congress. You won't regret it.
JOHN R. COPELAND
Main Street
Lee



Ionica Basinait, a sophomore at Lee High School, tests pH level of water from the Lousatonic River with a kit donated by Mead Corp. Mead this week announced the award of \$5,000 in grants to strengthen Lee and Otis schools' curriculum.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Mead gives thoughtful \$5,000 to strengthen Lee classes

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Specialty Paper Division of Mead Corp. has awarded approximately \$5,000 worth of grants to the Lee Public Schools to pay for five major initiatives designed to strengthen the curriculum in areas that teach students how to think.

Scott M. Hollander, manager of human resources who announced the awards, said they are part of the Dayton, Ohio, parent corporation's Education Initiative program that is attempting to overcome "the mismatch between the skills of the students and the job requirements in Mead's businesses."

He said that the corporation's Specialty Paper Division, a major employer in the Lee area, hires about 20 new people each year.

For the past several years, Mead has followed a practice of participative decision making in the workplace. The company calls its employees "associates" and encourages them to take greater responsibility for the success of the various work components.

"This means we require people with the ability to think through problems, to make decisions and to work as a team," he said.

One of the grant projects is a program called "Voyage of the Mimi," which sets up thinking

'We could not have done this program without the help from Mead,' said a teacher.

Eagle 4.12.91

problems through a television show that follows students on a whale tracking expedition. Through the use of video and computers, students apply scientific reasoning, creative thinking, and measurement and graphing techniques, using mathematics and science concepts to predict outcomes.

"I am very excited about the program," said Cynthia G. Smith, who teaches talented and gifted youngsters in Grades 3 to 8, and who had applied for the Mead funds to acquire "Mimi."

The ability to think, she said, should be basic to education, "but it's very difficult to get 'thinking' into the regular curriculum of public schools."

The reason, she said, is that school curriculums "tend to get bogged down with their responsibilities of teaching facts."

Youngsters have to know their multiplication tables, how to spell, and history and geography, she said.

"But in teaching those facts, we

tend not to teach thinking skills," she said.

"We could not have done this program without the help from Mead," she said, alluding to budget constraints. She said the program will initially be used by 4th and 5th graders next year and then will expand to cover Grades 3 to 8.

Hollander said the grant programs were developed through consultations with teachers.

He said the corporation has invested \$500,000 in the overall five-year program. Aside from the gifts, the program encourages Mead employees to become involved in schools.

Hollander said the program has five parts. They are:

► A teacher excellence award to recognize teachers for helping students meet certain performance objectives.

► A teacher initiative grant program to provide teachers the opportunity to put new ideas into

LEE, continued on C2

Mead Corp.

■ LEE, from C1

4.12.91

practice.

► A community excellence in education grant tailoring funding to specific community needs.

► A "Windows on the World" program involving Mead employees in classroom activities.

► And a Volunteers for Pre-College Education to encourage volunteer involvement by Mead employees with schools of their choice in Mead communities.

Aside from buying "Voyage of the Mimi," the grants are being used to:

► Provide consultations, training and demonstrations for mathematics teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The focus is to give teachers training in teaching the applications of mathematics to projects that require students to think problems through.

► Purchase a large data display screen to improve computer training and education for the business and industrial arts programs. By using the screen to project computer images, teachers will be able to show students changes on the screen, while the computer is being manipulated by the instructor or other students.

► Establish a natural resources program designed to help students work on critical thinking skills to solve "real" world problems. The program requires students to identify, analyze and draw conclusions based on observation and research, emphasizing written communication. The program will take place at Otis Elementary School, Grades 4-6.

► Purchase materials, test equipment and devices to help teach students in physics and advanced placement science concepts of light, frequency and energy.

Richard Salinetti, Lee High School principal, called the Mead programs a boon in tight economic times.

"We are not talking about add-ons or frills," he said. "This new program from Mead provides support for things that are essential for improving student achievement in the classroom."

Two selectmen see support growing for abolition of county government

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Two Berkshire selectmen who favor abolition of county government say support for an abolition bill now in the Legislature is growing.

"Senators and representatives are signing on," said Selectman William D. Bean of Lee, who serves as chairman of the Berkshire County Advisory Board. "We are very optimistic."

Selectman Mary Hale of Tyringham, vice chairman of the advisory board and past president of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, said she has been telephoning mayors and other municipal officials across the state and finds most of them are "absolutely in favor" of abolition.

One of her contacts, she said, was Robert Ciolek, an aide to Mayor Raymond Flynn of Boston who told her that Flynn is behind the bill.

'Too expensive'

The reason is simple and stark, Hale said: "County government is too expensive and is doing absolutely nothing for us."

She and Bean conferred with state officials on the measure at the Statehouse on Tuesday. Last

month, they had proposed an abolition amendment to a Berkshire County bill that would have streamlined county government, a proposal the advisory board now believes is outdated.

The new bill was filed last month by a freshman senator, Arthur E. Chase, R-Worcester. It permits counties that want to remove their county government to do so, but it keeps open the door to calculating payments to the various cities and towns for the courthouses and related facilities the state would acquire.

It also permits counties that want to keep their county government to do so, but only if they pay fully their costs of operation. At present, the state provides financial aid for maintenance of county jails and pays rent for courthouses and related facilities.

Under the proposal, the state would assume control of county jails and registries of deeds.

Fiscal deterioration

In the last three years, as the commonwealth's fiscal condition has gone from bad to worse, financial aid has been reduced and rentals have been cut to the extent that county governments joined a year ago to fight in court

for full rental payments.

County government dates back to Colonial days. At a time when transportation and communications were more primitive than today, it was considered a necessary form of government and a vital link between the towns and the state government in Boston.

Today, it's quite different. As the state's financial condition continues to worsen, county government has become a burden to cities and towns, which raise the bulk of county revenues through their own property taxes.

"Lee pays almost \$34,000 for Berkshire County government," said Bean.

A report commissioned by Chase maintains that the financing of county government is cost-

ing \$223 million and that its abolition could save some \$34 million by eliminating needless services.

In Berkshire County, said Bean, if the government were eliminated, services like the communications center and the surveying department might be transferred to other agencies, such as the county jail and the county's regional planning commission, respectively.

Hale said counties like Barnstable, "which have good county government — they even have a county administrator — can keep what they've got. But they would have to pay for it."

"A lot of counties," said Bean, "seem to be in trouble." Berkshire, he said, is one of the best managed.

Hodgkins will expand Conte legacy

To the Editor of THE EAGLE: — 4.18.91

My family and I have fond memories of visiting Congressman Silvio Conte in Washington and prize our photo with him in his office. However, when remembering our distinguished representative the image that immediately springs to mind is of a man wearing a pig's snout mask remonstrating Congress about

pork barrel legislation.

There on the national evening news was our beloved Pittsfield politician giving them hell on Capitol Hill. He was a real character and that is part of what endeared him to so many (from both sides of the aisle). While never having much affinity for the Republican viewpoint, I always voted for Conte and was rarely disappointed with his performance. Mr. Conte was a superlative politician of sterling character.

Now faced with having to decide who will replace him and scanning the field of candidates, a similar reaction occurs when thinking about the dedication, service and effectiveness of Chris Hodgkins. He seems to possess that similar mixture of vigor, concern and wit which persists to get the job done. Chris has gone this extra mile in his district to address our concerns. His sincerity and enthusiasm in defense of the concerns of the common people are uncommon especially in these days of trickle-down economics. Like Mr. Conte, Chris is not afraid to take on the vested interests while also being sensitive to the needs of business to help fuel our economic fires. If his methods seem slightly outrageous to some sensibilities — well you can't please all the people all the time.

NEIL CLARKE

73 Orchard St.
Lee

Tom Cinella to coach Bay State hoop again

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Tom Cinella, who guided the Lee High girls to their third consecutive state basketball championship, will once again coach the West girls' scholastic basketball team in the Bay State Games this summer.

Cinella, who led the West girls to a gold medal with a perfect 5-0 slate last summer, said he is very excited about a second year in the Games.

"When I took it, I thought I'd coach the team for two years," said Cinella, who will be joined on the bench by his two right-hand men at Lee, his son Peter and Jim Feeley.

"I really enjoyed my experience. I got to coach a different kind of team," he explained, citing the all-star nature of last year's squad. "Most of the kids on my team in Lee, I either saw all the way through their basketball careers or coached them. This was a real different group."

Three Berkshire County gold medalists who have a chance to return for 1991 are Jamie Murphy of Taconic, Samantha Herrick of Lenox and Kate Cinella of Lee — son of Tom, sister of Peter. Coach Cinella said 11 of the 12 members on last year's team were All-Western Massachusetts hoop selections by the Springfield Republican this year.

He will have a panel of six women's college coaches select the team members from tryouts scheduled for June. Western New England coach Mike Thompson and Smith coach Jim Babyak will return to the selection committee. Others who have committed are Amherst assistant and former Lee star Lisa Salinetti and Elms College coach Kate Mullen.

The West head coach said he saw a lot of players during the Western Massachusetts and state basketball tournaments, and would like to see between 70 and 100 girls try out, as they did last year.

Bay State scholarships

Meanwhile, the Bay State Games scholarship competition will get under way shortly. Applications are available in high school guidance offices for the Bank of Boston Lead by Example scholarship and New England Telephone scholarship for education.

The Lead by Example scholarship recognizes Games participants who lead through their achievements in athletics, academics and in the community. The NET scholarship will go to participants who demonstrate a commitment to education in their achievements and have worked to improve educational opportunities for others.

The deadline for applying for those scholarships is May 24.

Campaign '91

Hodgkins calls for fuel conservation

LEE — Saying that Americans are "oil junkies," state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, has announced his support of legislation that would require automakers to increase the fuel efficiency of their products and would place a tax on fossil fuels based on their carbon content.

Hodgkins is seeking the Democratic nomination to run for Congress.

"If we cannot kick the oil habit immediately, let's at least lower our dose through conservation so we don't have to go cold turkey when the supply runs out," Hodgkins said, adding that he opposes oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northern Alaska, the largest expanse of undisturbed wilderness in the U.S.

Hodgkins said that President Bush's energy policy is shortsighted because it calls for increasing domestic oil production and turns "a blind eye" to conservation and fuel efficiency requirements.

LEE

Berkshire Courier 4.18.91

\$255,000 Override Looms

LEE — The amount of the property tax limit override voters will confront in May finally has been set — \$255,000.

The Finance Committee Tuesday told the Selectmen they had cut the original budget from \$9.37 million to \$8.61 million with amounts of state and local receipts, the cost of employees' health insurance and the size of the school budget (presently \$4.3 million), still uncertain.

Should voters reject the override of Proposition 2 1/2 limits, Finance Committee chairman Robert Trask told the selectmen, the committee will have to cut appropriations further.

Included in the override amount is \$120,000 to cover the inflationary cost of current services, \$94,000 for added services and \$45,000 for the proposed new town administrator's salary and expenses. The balance, Mr. Trask

said, is spread among numerous miscellaneous items.

If approved the new budget will cost taxpayers an additional 99 cents on the present tax rate of \$12 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

A detailed explanation of the budget will be given voters at a "baby" town meeting May 2. The town meeting is set for May 9 and the override question will be on the May 13 election ballot.

In other action Tuesday Mean Corp Specialty Paper Division agreed to put in writing its willingness to absorb a third of the cost of expanding the town landfill.

The company plans to use its part for the disposal of sludge.

Based on an appraisal last year the voters approved taking the property — about 25.5 acres — for \$1.07 million.

Nation's Firefighters Honor South Lee Man For Teaching Children About Fire Prevention

Berk. Record 4.19.91

By Christine Burns

SOUTH LEE — When Captain Wilbur J. Hunt Jr. was a little boy, he wasn't sure what he wanted to be when he grew up — but his fifth grade teacher definitely had a premonition.

"Clara Graham was her name. And I'll always remember what she said to me," said Hunt, now a Connecticut Fire Inspector based in New London. "I was a bit of a 'hell-raiser' when I was in school. And one day she just pulled me aside and said 'One of these days, you're going to set your goals — and then they'll be nothing stopping you until you get a hold of them.'"

It wasn't until he entered the air force in 1960 that he figured out his goal. Fulfilling the dreams a many a little boy, Hunt grew up to be a fireman.

"I had a choice after I finished basic training. I could either be a fire fighter, or a chaplain's assistant," admitted Hunt.

"I figured I wasn't cut out for the second one so I chose the first."

In retrospect, Hunt made the proper decision because he grabbed hold of his goal and "there was nothing stopping him" until he was awarded one of the nation's top honors for fire fighting.

Last month Hunt was the recipient of the 1990 Charles B. Gindele Award for Fire Protection Inspection from the United States Navy and Marine Corps Fire Protection Association.

Although he has performed his share of fire fighting heroics in his thirty years in the military and the past two years in the private sector, Hunt modestly refused to elaborate on any of those feats.

We're letting our kids burn themselves.'

Instead, from the den of his family's home in South Lee which is fully decorated with over 8,000 patches of fire fighting units from



Photo by Paul Kakley.
Wilbur J. Hunt Jr. with his national award

all over the world, Hunt explained that he received the award not for fire protection but for fire prevention.

"We're letting our kids burn themselves," said Hunt flatly.

"And even worse than that, we're letting them burn others in the process because in this nation we've got multiple problems that stem from juvenile fire setters."

Hunt co-authored a book that "teaches kids first how to prevent starting fires and secondly how to be protected in the case of a fire."

Hunt's book — which appeals to adults in content and to children in creativity — is used in schools on military bases all over the country and is becoming widely accepted in civilian pre-schools.

After retiring from the air force last year, Hunt enrolled in the Connecticut State Police Academy in Meridan in order to become a certified fire inspector in that state. Currently he works out of New London.

"But I haven't stopped trying to figure out ways to keep kids safe from fire," said Hunt.

His latest technique is the 911 Clown Show in which he dons the appropriate attire — right down to the bright red nose — and goes to schools and other public places to explain to children how to use the Emergency 911 system.

Hunt has even learned sign language in order to teach fire prevention to deaf children.

Clara Graham was right — Hunt figured out his goal and "nothings going to stop" him now.

C.D. Nelsen

Eagle

Darkening classrooms

4.20.91

DALTON

A T-shirt on display at a North Street shop in Pittsfield reads: "Will the last one to leave Massachusetts please turn out the lights?" As a teacher, I'm afraid to think about the dark that our students face next year or about who may be leaving.

Sitting in on a Lee School Committee meeting a couple of weeks back was an enlightening experience. I was there the wrong week. There wasn't a crowd. Only one non-controversial coaching post was being filled. Nothing important was happening — just layoff notices to teachers, a pre-trimmed, bare-bones budget being passed on to the town Finance Committee, and a dean of students' job being filled by a dedicated colleague.

It was easy to admire the seriousness of the School Committee, how hard the volunteer members worked, how carefully they reviewed volumes of paperwork, and made important decisions about the children's lives. When Gary Norton spoke up, I wanted to shake his hand. He asked if the committee couldn't present a budget with everything in it that the schools really needed. Why not let the town Finance Committee chop it as they had to later? The more seasoned committee people were sympathetic. They explained what a bad year it was, how many people were out of work and couldn't afford their property taxes, how the spirit of what he was saying was right, but this wasn't the year to ask for much.

Morale is understandably low after a decade of layoffs and retrenchment. Teaching is nearly impossible work. You have to be really dedicated or gullible or both to even attempt the

I know why so many teachers I liked left.

daily miracle. Maybe that's why other cultures so treasure their educators. Maybe that's why they feel they can afford to, regardless of the economy.

At a recent Pittsfield School Committee meeting, Chairman George Crane called 119 layoff notices "Draconian" and suggested that the school board not approve a second round of cuts that would create classes with more than 30 students in them.

Maybe there are people who don't understand what a class of more than 20 students can be like. Once there were students who would sit like angels as they were warehoused in large

Hodgkins thanks Bloomfield for clock

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who received an alarm clock from one of his opponents in the race for the 1st Congressional district after he arrived late at three political functions, yesterday called it "a very touching gesture" and one he will "treasure always."

In a letter to Stephen I. Bloomfield, the Northampton Democrat who chided him for tardiness because "you come late to progressive causes," Hodgkins said, "You should send one to all the other candidates so they'll know it's time to get serious."

Hodgkins noted that he was pleased to see that the clock was "a dime store special," not an expensive model.

In further recognition of the importance of bargains, Hodgkins will hold a bargain-priced \$1.25 spaghetti and chicken dinner tomorrow from 5 to 7 p.m. in Adams at the American Legion Hall on Part Street to benefit his congressional campaign. Hosts of the event will include Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano and Adams Selectman William McLaren.

Hodgkins wants federal acid rain law

LEE — Congressional primary candidate Christopher J. Hodgkins, a Democratic state representative from Lee, has pledged that if he is elected, he will work to advance federal legislation aimed at reducing the air pollutants that cause acid rain.

Hodgkins said that the "futility" of state regulation is underscored by the progress of plans to build a coal-fired cogeneration plant in Halfmoon, N.Y.

"The prevailing wind blows from the west," he said in a prepared statement. "If they build that soft coal-fired plant, it will spew toxins into the air and cause much more acid rain to fall over Western Massachusetts, but Massachusetts will be powerless to do anything about it."

Hodgkins noted that he was one of the sponsors of the Massachusetts acid rain law, which he has said is the toughest in the nation.

Darkening classrooms

4.20.91

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Maybe there are people who don't understand what a class of more than 20 students can be like. Once there were students who would sit like angels as they were warehoused in large groups with forms and figures to ponder on their own, but those days are gone. Believe it or not, this was still the practice when we baby boomers hit the classroom in the '50s. I remember a stream of teachers passing in and out of those classrooms.

Today I know why so many of those teachers I liked left. And the situation is a lot worse now. Unions have fought hard for better pay, working conditions and rights, but they can't change the attitude that has our country ranked 7th out of 10 among other industrial nations in the amount of money we're willing to spend to educate our young. This same attitude recently made our rookie Gov. William F. Weld and state Sen. Jane M. Swift both think it was just fine to cut education and other vital services while preserving raises for the governor's own Cabinet.

Even though I have a terminal degree myself, I'm not usually too impressed with what professors pontificate. Recently, Harvard Business Professor Michael E. Porter presented a 126-page report and plan to solve the economic woes our state is in. Besides presenting bold plans for research, investment and the environment, he bragged about what a wonderful place our state is. He claimed that we have the right ingredients for a competitive future: a highly trained work force, excellent educational and research facilities, and an abundance of fast-growing industries.

"Most places in the world would give their eyeteeth for what we have," he said. He also suggested that education had to be supported if we were going to reap the benefits of our so glorious resources.

While he outlined his ideas, the same governor who has stripped bare support for education and other social services stood by him in the media spotlight.

Isn't it funny that a politician can tell us he supports education and then refuse to make the funding of it a top priority? No, after more than a decade of double talk in Washington and Boston, it isn't.

Recycled ads for a Massachusetts Miracle seem pretty pathetic at this point. It's time to ask those we elect to put our money where their mouths are.

C.D. Nelsen teaches English at Lee High School and lives in Dalton.



Craig Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Follow the bouncing ball

Eagle 4.20.91

Lee High infielder Katie Cinella, who spent the winter chasing down loose balls for the Wildcats' state champion basketball team, tries to flag down this throw along with teammate Dina Souza as Pittsfield High's Anne

Tropeano slides into second with a stolen base during yesterday's softball game in Lee. PHS remained unbeaten with 8-3 victory, dealing Lee its first loss of the season. Story on Page D3.

Advocate 4.24.91

Hopkins will keep spring water running on his own

Having weighed the costs and benefits of helping the Hopkins family pay for the continued use of Cold Spring brook as a source of fresh water, town officials have decided not to come to the family's aid.

But that won't stop Donald Hopkins and his sister Mildred Holmes.

"To close this would be like spitting in the townspeople's face," Hopkins says. "A lot of people have told me 'Why don't you just pull it out and say the hell with it?' That's the last thing I would do. There are too many people who rely on this spring."

So instead of pulling the seven-spout rig that siphons water out of the natural spring on Tyringham Road, Hopkins will have to pay to keep it open.

While Hopkins and his sister had always paid a relatively small amount for monthly tests, a recent increase in water user fees and more stringent water tests has increased the cost of the spring several times over. The state's user fee, for example, is \$375 a year -- which is actually down \$175 from what the state originally proposed.

To make matters worse on the family financially, the town increased the annual property tax for the watershed property from \$300 to about \$1,600, Hopkins says. To lower the property tax, Hopkins says he plans to place the undeveloped mountain-side land into a forest management program.

Nevertheless, the cost to Hopkins and Holmes for giving out free, clean water will be about \$2,000 a year.

When Hopkins and Holmes first went to Lee town officials, the selectmen said they could not do anything for them because of the liability of owning the water. If anybody got sick from the water, Selectman William D. Bean said, the town could face a major lawsuit.



Donald Hopkins of Lee has decided to keep a public water line into Cold Spring brook in Lee despite stiff increases in state fees for testing the water and keeping the community resource there.

Nevertheless, Lee Department of Public Works Chairman Joseph Castronova said the DPW board might be able to help Hopkins out by renting the property or assuming some of the costs. The issue, he said, could be brought up at the annual town meeting to let the townspeople decide. The brook, Castronova said, was a community resource that has helped bail out the town during dry years.

But after looking into the matter, the DPW board decided not to pursue the issue at town meeting, says DPW Superintendent Peter Scolforo.

"I wish we could do something, but the board decided it would be impossible," Scolforo says.

So, Hopkins and Holmes will go it alone.

"It just doesn't make any sense," Hopkins says. "They spend millions of dollars a year to filter water in a reservoir and the water here is just fine. You'd think the state would have more important things to do than pick on this poor little brook."

Hopkins says he uses the spring to supply himself with drinking and cooking water. Many residents have also routinely stopped at the spring to collect water for

themselves since Hopkins' father installed the spigots 12 years ago.

"A lot of people depend on this stream," said Paul O'Neill of Lee Sunday while he filled a container with Cold Spring water. "I've got the town's water but it's more like mud than water. This is the real thing."

Ironically, instead of being a money loser, Hopkins says he could probably convert the watershed property into a lucrative business by bottling the fresh spring water and marketing it. After all, a whole new industry has developed selling bottled water.

Since publicity about the increasing cost of keeping the spring has spread, Hopkins says some people have left extra money at the rig with notes supporting him in his cause.

On the flip side, Hopkins says, he has been disappointed by the amount of litter that some people leave behind at the spring. The riverbank along the Housatonic opposite the spring is covered with papers, trash bags, old tires and other debris.

"The thing is the spring didn't leave the litter. People did it. That's what irks me. Nature does a fine job but we just mess it up," he says.

If there was building or industrial development upstream from the spigots, Hopkins says he would readily agree to closing the spring. If there were problems with the water, he says, he would close the spring. But that is not the case.

"We're going to keep it because it's part of the Berkshires," Hopkins says. "This is what this area is about. I'm not about to close the spring. It's been there a lot longer than I have and it will stay there a lot longer too. There are a lot of people who hope it will stay."

Maroney scrambles to offer help for Lee elders

Norma Maroney sees first-hand the megatrends that all the newspapers write about.

The aging population, escalating insurance costs and state budget cuts all come crashing down on Maroney's lap as director of the Lee Council on Aging.

"When I started [12 years ago] my job was more of a social director because that was what the senior center was -- a place to fulfill social needs," Maroney says. "Now I help people survive within the community so they can continue to stay in their homes. If you take my job description when I first started, it's a joke now," she says.

During the last three years, Maroney says the number of elderly citizens served by her town agency has increased by more than 100 people to 400 elders. In that same time period, Maroney says she has seen state agencies cut back drastically in staff, insurance regulations become more complicated, and insurance costs rise out of reach of many people on fixed incomes.

Last fall, the state eliminated funding for Elizabeth Hodgkins' job assisting people through the maze of insurance regulations.

The result of all this, Maroney says, is more elders scrambling to find ways to remain at home. She recites tale after tale of elderly couples and residents who have too

little money to pay for rent, insurance and food.

To cope with the problems, Maroney says, more and more volunteers are stepping forward to help.

"We find a way to do it," she says. "Because there are frail elders, the younger elders are more willing to give volunteer time because they see the need."

The network of volunteers has increased from about 25 a few years ago to 40 active volunteers now with Dorothy Saville putting in the most number of hours (30) a week. The Lee Senior Citizens Club has become increasingly active with the Council on Aging, she says, to lend a helping hand.

At the Lee Senior Center, Maroney works with several other agencies and groups to provide a wide range of programs for the elderly. In cooperation with the Lee Visiting Nurse Association, blood pressure clinics, podiatry clinics, an annual flu clinic, and free ear exams are provided at the Lee Senior Center.

The council offers free transportation for any activity within Lee such as shopping or trips to the doctor. The center serves lunch twice a week at the facility in the Airoldi Building, and provides and delivers meals to 60 people daily at their homes in Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge.

One of the biggest problems elders face, Maroney says, is understanding and paying for health insurance.

"I've had to become a health insurance counselor," she

says. "Last month I spent most of my month just doing that. People have to have it. I used to spend almost all my time just talking to people here [at the Senior Center]. Now I can't go out and spend an hour at lunch with them. Without the volunteers I couldn't do anything."



Norma Maroney, left, accepts a 1986 Mercury Grand Marquis from David Canterbury, president, of the Lee Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanis gives new car

At a time when social service agencies are stretching for everything they can get, the Lee Kiwanis Club stepped forward and bought the Lee Council on Aging a 1986 Mercury Grand Marquis. The four-door car will be used by the agency to transport elders for shopping, medical appointments and other excursions.

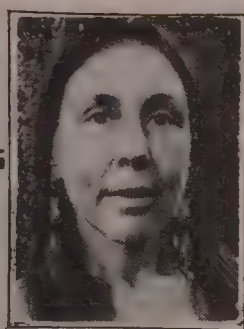
Norma Maroney, director of the Lee Council on Aging, says the car replaces an older model that the Kiwanis Club bought several years ago.

"When the Kiwanis gives a car like that, they're not only serving the people who use it, it also helps the people's friends and families and the whole community," Maroney says. "If the Kiwanis didn't do it, the town would have to find a way to provide the transportation."

David Canterbury says the club helps provide transportation for the council as one of the club's several community projects. "This is just one of the many projects that we've had in the last few years that involves substantial money," he says.

walkabout

By
Deidre Consolati
Advocate
4.24.91



THE AWAKENING OF SPRING IN LEE, once signaled by clamorous wood frogs and raucous blackbirds, is muted these days as residential tracts continue to replace land once open. Along hilly Prospect Street, so-called for its sweeping views of the town ("prospects"), there exists the remains of a swamp that once bordered its western edge. Wildlife thrived in the bogs and in springtime the proliferating peepers (tree frogs) sent out the welcome news that spring had at last arrived.

"I always think about spring when I hear the frogs," observed Louise Whalen, longtime resident of Prospect Street and, at 88, a spry nature-lover and great-grandmother. "We still hear the peepers, but they used to be so loud." She went on: "We've lost a lot of the swamp. We had deer, ducks, geese and all kinds of animals. It was beautiful."

The Prospect Street swamp should have been protected by Massachusetts' stringent wetlands laws enacted after the first Earth Day in 1971, and why it has deteriorated is a serious question that Louise thinks deserves an answer. She observed: "First a gas line was put in, then a sewer line. They [the builders] brought sand, gravel, cement, stone and pipes. When they were done and cleaned it off, the swamp was pushed way back. A house was built there just last year. How can that be?" She finished, "It's a shame that people ruin things."

Thankfully, encroachment has interrupted nature's rhythms to only a minor degree at the town forest on Golden Hill. Unknown to many frequent users, the present-day picnic area was once a muddy cowfield. Also, unknown to the town (who, incredibly, partially filled in the property in 1976), it was a mating site for adult spotted salamanders who migrated there in the early spring. Fortunately, the remaining swampland still serves that purpose -- its tamaracks, wild calamus and other vegetation intact.

Farmer Charles Schwab, whose landmark rambling house sits across the road, remembers the cowfield well. He grazed his cows there in the 1940s with the permission of then-chief of police Frank T. Coughlin, famous for his strict supervision of town affairs. He apparently served as conservation officer too, for he gave Schwab a curt go-ahead. "Great! Keeps the weeds down!" he told the farmer.

Jeanette, Schwab's mother, knew where to find the nearby wild foods -- and when each was in season. Said Charles: "One thing would come, then the other. Cowslips [marsh marigold] fiddleheads, then that garden weed called pigweed." Henry Brazee, a neighbor down the road whose property, like Schwab's, abuts the town forest, picks the cowslips for his family, too. Local cooking advice calls for changing the water twice while the potherb is boiling to remove a bitter taste, now scientifically traced to an alkaloid called jervine.

Just as the peepers are harbingers of spring for Prospect Street families, the Schwabs and Brazees agree that in their part of town the cyclical event that ushers in the season is the blooming of the mayflowers. These small, ephemeral pink-striped flowers are botanically called "spring beauties," an apt name for their translucent quality and the emotion they inspire when first seen. During a lush spring the flowers carpet the woods for acres.

The town forest's crowning glory is the 1,270-foot-high Pinnacle, a glacial outcropping of extraordinary beauty. Its crags beckon invitingly and the inaccessibility of the ledges make it a perfect site for migrating ospreys who have nested there for over a year. When a high wind blows from the north, these great birds seek and ride the drafts in ever-distancing circles in search of prey. The splendor of their flight and its transcendent pattern invites comparisons with our own lives, where we, too, from birth move in ever-widening circles.

In flight the ospreys coordinate all variables -- wind resistance, wing and body angle, spontaneous updraft -- to ensure a smooth journey down the corridor of air that rushes them past their Pinnacle stopover and west over Route 20, into the inviting open waters of Laurel Lake. Variables abound in our human reality, too, and when we adjust all aspects, our lives move into that balanced, centered eye from whose great height -- like the gliding ospreys -- we have no need to use our wings.

Wishing you equilibrium in your journey down the winds of time and space, and peace with your neighbor.

Lee looks inside town for new Central School principal

The new principal at Lee Central School will be a familiar face. While nobody has been selected for the job to succeed longtime principal Ray Kavey, the Lee School Committee has effectively narrowed the choice down to five. School Superintendent Henry Zukowski says the committee has posted the position within the Lee school system and will not seek other candidates.

There are five staff members in the system certified as an elementary education principal, Zukowski says. They are Neal Clarke (a high school math teacher), Steven Cozzaglio (the acting building supervisor at Lee Central School), Chanel Clark (a fourth-grade teacher), Bill Chisolm (a guidance counselor), and Warren Reynolds (a school psychologist).

"I don't know how many will apply but I hope they all will," Zukowski says. "We have the talent for the job right here." Zukowski says he expects the committee to select a principal by the end of May. Advocate 4.24.91

Hodgkins fails to file state campaign report

By Susan C. Phillips
Berkshire Eagle Staff 4.24.91

BOSTON — The campaign committee for the congressional bid of Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, has so far failed to send a copy of the candidate's pre-primary finance report to the secretary of state's office, as required by federal election law.

Hodgkins' campaign manager, Jeff Beatrice, blamed "an administrative screw-up," and said the report would be filed with the state as soon as possible. He also noted that the campaign has made financial information available to reporters who have requested it.

Hodgkins last week tweaked Republican candidate Steven D. Pierce, who has in the past failed to file his federal income taxes on time, by sending Pierce a copy of the federal tax deadline extension application.

Another Democratic candidate, John R. Arden of Easthampton, could not be reached to explain why a copy of his report has not yet been received by the secretary of state's office.

The deadline for filing the reports with the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C., was April 18. Beatrice said yesterday that he had sent the report to the Federal Election Commission in time for the April 18 deadline, but neglected to make a copy before sending it off.

"We've talked to the FEC..."

understanding is it is not a matter of law."

However, a spokesman for the FEC said that the election laws require the treasurers of each campaign committee to simultaneously file copies of the federal report with both the FEC and the appropriate state official -- in this case, the secretary of state. A spokesman for the secretary of state's office said the same thing. The state cannot enforce a deadline for receiving the reports, because the filings come under federal jurisdiction.

The Hodgkins campaign did provide a printout of its own financial records, showing that the candidate raised \$39,228 in contributions and took out a \$50,000 loan. The campaign had spent \$79,200 by April 10, leaving a balance of a little over \$2,000.

While Hodgkins has abandoned a previous rule against accepting contributions from Political Action Committees, or PACs, he apparently did not receive any PAC support during the reporting period. Hodgkins has said he will now accept funds from PACs whose agenda he supports, such as environmental PACs.

Hodgkins and Arden are the only candidates out of a dozen running for the 1st Congressional District seat whose reports have not yet been received by the secretary of state. Reports for all 12 have been received by the FEC.

Eagle 4.25.91 Sherwood Guernsey, peace people candidate

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-

One of the Berkshire Democratic candidates for Congress claimed he would drain more military contracts to GE [Eagle, March 13]. Such pork-barreling has almost annihilated America's ability to compete in the world economy.

The other one, Sherwood Guernsey, delivered a contract to assemble mass transit cars in Pittsfield — non-violent and environmentally sound.

Peace people should support Sherwood Guernsey.

TIM WALTER

72 Housatonic St.
Lee



Candidate Christopher J. Hodgkins reads to children at the Norman Rockwell Early Childhood Center at BCC.

Eagle 4.25.91 Hodgkins outlines education platform

By Mary-Jane Tichenor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins of Lee, Democratic candidate for Congress, yesterday said that "higher education should be a right, not a privilege" for our young people.

He called for an educational strategy that begins with an effective Heart Start program of prenatal care, health care for children and affordable day care for working families.

He discussed his views on improving the nation's educational

system with Berkshire Community College students and then visited with children at the Norman Rockwell Early Childhood Center on the BCC campus.

Hodgkins is a 1978 honor graduate of BCC, where he was president of the student body and one year was chosen "alumnus of the year." He attended BCC on a Pell scholarship, a federal grant, and then went on to the University of Massachusetts with the help of scholarships and student loans. His brother, Dan, also graduated from BCC and went on to be a

psychologist, he said.

"If we are to have an educated work force to compete in a modern economy, we have to start investing in public education again," Hodgkins said. "It's a necessity, not a frill." Federal student-aid programs that Republican presidents have scaled back or eliminated and government's neglect of education has made American education second rate, he said.

"We cannot make America an educational superpower without combating poverty, shoring up disintegrating families and ending parental apathy," he said.

He called for increased federal investment in public schools and better teacher pay to attract

rescue our educational institutions from the neglect in which they languish," Hodgkins said.

President Bush's educational plan, which Hodgkins believes "attacks public education," commits \$1 million to one school district in each congressional district.

"I would like to commit those monies to North Adams," Hodgkins said, not only for elementary and secondary education programs, but also for North Adams State College to offset Gov. William F. Weld's proposal to commit monies to NASC. "I believe that North Adams State is one of the best investments the state can make to Northern Berkshire," he said. "We ought to be expanding

Don Robinson is known in Washington

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-

The reality of this congressional race is that no one going to Washington from this district is going to have seniority. The best we can do is send someone who knows D.C., and who already has the respect and admiration of our national lawmakers. Don Robinson has this. Please take some time to learn about Don Robinson before April 30. He's worth getting to know!

SALLIE M. KISH

197 Laurel St.
Lee

LEE

Berkeley Courier 4.25.91

Apartment Issue Unresolved

LEE — Selectman Chairman Joseph Dupont and builder Thomas Garity continued sparring Monday evening over six apartments Mr. Garity wants to build on West Park Street.

Mr. Dupont continued to insist that Mr. Garity's plans did not give the town enough information to determine if they meet zoning bylaws.

And Mr. Garity, who in the past has accused Mr. Dupont of saying publicly that he would never vote for the proposal, continued to press his argument that the selectman already had judged the project.

By the end of the selectmen's meeting, however, nothing had been resolved and the debate was

continued until May 6. Mr. Dupont insists he wants nothing more from Mr. Garity than plans detailed enough to show how drainage will be handled, how much of his lot's square footage the footprint of the buildings will cover and how much the two bedroom units will add to the town's already overtaxed sewer system.

Mr. Garity said that while he was trying to make the project work within the town zoning regulations, Mr. Dupont "is sitting up there judging me."

The town four years ago imposed a moratorium on construction of dwelling units that would add 2,000 or more gallons daily to

the sewer treatment problem.

It also has a bylaw that limits the amount of land a building can cover to 35 per cent of its lot.

Mr. Dupont, who is a former member of the town's planning board, found Mr. Garity's plans to construct the six units next to a 15-unit apartment complex he built six years ago deficient in showing conformity in both areas.

He said that if Mr. Garity plans to request waivers of any by-law he should do so now, not later. He said the Department of Public Works likewise needs to determine if the town's water system is adequate to handle the six new units and that plans for drainage are acceptable.



Berkshire Record reporter Christine Burns, left, shown here with Ellen Albanese, president of the Massachusetts Press Association, was one of three winners in the feature writing category of the 1991 newspaper contest. She accepted her award in Newton, Mass. last Friday evening at the annual meeting of the association. (Way to go, Chris.)

Berk. Record
4.26.91

Record photo by Donal Jones

Signings ain't like in the '50s

Eagle 4.27.91

LEE

Pete Rose was a few feet away. Nolan Ryan's rookie card was on special for \$900. Clemens' likeness was beckoning for \$895, and the man beside me with the Yankee cap was telling his friend how he remembered when people collected cards for fun. It was the Sunday morning card show at the Polish Community Center in Albany, N.Y., and nostalgia heaven for us baby boomers now old enough to tell everyone else about the good old days. Everyone has a story to tell at the card show — many are about the famous '52 Topps of Mantle (now worth \$9,000) that got away. A lot of tales are about getting cards autographed at the ballpark with real-life, still-playing players in uniforms signing their names and even saying "here you go, kid" — a far cry from meeting retired stage hopppers who marathon-sign at shows, often without ever looking up, for \$10 to \$20 a scribble.

I watched Pete Rose Sunday. Nobody hassled him about his legal troubles. In fact most people politely applauded when he arrived at the center. One enterprising dealer even set up a whole display of Rose cards labeled The Rose Garden. But Pete looked bored and tired and just kept signing his name and collecting his bucks in that stark hall worlds away from the excitement of major league baseball and the ballpark. It all seemed very ordinary, just business, not very magical at all.

Maybe that's the difference between the '50s and today. There certainly

One dealer set up a display of Rose cards labeled The Rose Garden.

seems little magic in the wheeling and dealing with big dollars in a hall.

I watched an impatient father drag his young son away from a 50-cent Bo Jackson card because it was an "unauthorized" card. "It's not a good investment," he scolded the boy. "It won't have any more value next year than it has today. They can reprint those anytime."

"But I like Bo," was the sad, ignored reply.

No mind. Not a good investment.

I don't remember any other girls collecting baseball cards in Stockbridge in the '50s. My trading partners were the neighborhood boys. I do remember my friend Jean regularly stealing cards from her brother to put on the spokes of her bike.

This present generation's memories will flow from crammed hot halls with endless lines of tables overflowing with cards — cards under glass, cards in plastic sheets and cases, cards labeled with warning signs not to remove or touch.

I showed my shoebox-held treasures regularly on lazy summer afternoons in the back yard. A good part of the fun was handling and touching them. I don't remember a rounded corner or rubber band crease causing any concern. Mantle was Mantle in any shape or form, and everyone knew it took at least a couple of Berras, Sphans or Fords to trade for a Mantle.

We only kept the star cards in the old days — no hoarding of unknown names and faces just in case they turned out to be famous in years to come. We relegated all the commons (and even stars we didn't like) to flipping, bicycle spokes and the trash.

I remember we chewed the gum and even liked it. Not a very cool thing to admit today. A kid at the show Sunday tried to turn a pack of cards back in to a dealer for a refund because the gum in the pack had stained a Griffey card.

I have to wonder what today's kids will carry as their memories of the good old days of card collecting, what stories they'll tell as they sit in the future ordering cards from home buying shows and authorizing computer transfers for payment.

Will they talk about jostling for position at dealers' tables in crowded halls, of wheeling and dealing with price guides under their arms and of seeing ball players in person sitting behind folding tables.

"You should have seen how fast that Pete Rose signed autographs. That's when they showed up in person to sign. Not like today when they do it from some studio on the tube. No sir, we got right up close back then. Boy, that Rose sure could sign. I'll always remember that Sunday in Albany with his pen just flying over those bats and programs."

Funny, the stuff that makes up our memories.

Laurie Forfa, a Lee resident, is vice president for nursing at North Adams Regional Hospital.

Hodgkins cares for the elderly

4.27.91

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

With 12 candidates seeking to be our next representative in Washington, it is imperative that all who care about the elderly vote in the April 30 primary election.

I care about the elderly and I'll vote for Chris Hodgkins, because he knows us and knows what we need. As our representative in Boston, he helped to establish the nursing-home ombudsman program and he led the fight to restore funding for home care and meals on wheels.

In Congress he would fight to keep Social Security equal and would vote to link these annual raises to a new consumer-price index keyed specifically to inflation that affects the elderly. In these difficult times, we need someone like Chris in Washington fighting to make sure we elderly are not forgotten.

RUTH E. LOWRY

22 George St.
Lee

Visiting Nurses Honor Retiring Director, Ann Beacco

Berk. Record 4.26.91

LEE — The Lee Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) will hold an open house to give the general public the opportunity to honor Ann Beacco, the director of the organization who will retire in May after 14 years of service.

The testimonial gathering will take place at Greenock Country Club on Sunday, April 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Lee VNA Board of Directors has invited any who would like to honor Beacco to attend.

Beacco, a registered nurse who also holds her master's degree, first joined the organization in Lee in 1977. Prior to that

time she worked for the Southern Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association. State Representative Christopher J. Hodgkins presented Beacco with a state citation for her public service at last week's annual board meeting.

When Beacco leaves in early May, she will be replaced by Paula Shutzman also a regis-

tered nurse holding master's degree. Shutzman formerly worked for the VNA as a nurse, but left the agency to acquire management experience.

The board of directors have established an educational fund in Beacco's name in order to finance in house training for the VNA staff. Donations to that fund are welcome.

Campaign '91

Eagle 4.26.91

83.

Hodgkins campaign files with state

BOSTON — Campaign officials for Christopher J. Hodgkins on Wednesday faxed a copy of the candidate's pre-primary finance report to the secretary of state's office here, bringing the campaign into compliance with election laws.

The report indicates that between mid-February and April 10, Hodgkins raised \$34,428 in contributions and took out a \$50,000 loan. In the same period, the campaign spent \$74,400, leaving a balance of about \$10,000.

Campaign manager Jeffrey Beatrice had made those figures available to reporters earlier, after an administrative mix-up delayed the filing of the report with the state. The Hodgkins campaign did file the report on time with the Federal Election Commission.

Democrat Leonard J. Collamore of Holyoke, whose report was received by the state on Tuesday, raised \$18,435 from contributions. Collamore has taken out a \$54,000 loan to finance his effort as well. The campaign reports expenditures of just over \$10,000 and a balance of \$62,380.

Neither Collamore nor Hodgkins received any money from political action committees, or PACs.

Eleven of the 12 candidates for the 1st District special election primaries have now filed reports with the state. The remaining candidate, Democrat John R. Arden of Easthampton, is not required to file because he has raised and spent less than the \$5,000 minimum that triggers the filing requirement.

Hodgkins backs Conn. River refuge

LEE — Democratic congressional candidate Christopher J. Hodgkins has endorsed the proposed Connecticut River refuge that would memorialize the late U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, and he called for similar preservation along the Housatonic River.

The Connecticut River plan would establish a chain of wildlife refuges up the 407-mile length of the river, establishing anti-pollution programs and providing recreation opportunities along its banks.

The Housatonic's water is now relatively pure, Hodgkins said in a prepared statement, but "what needs to be done now is to get the 12 miles below Pittsfield cleansed of the PCBs that GE dumped there, so that the river can be made whole again."

Lee School Committee hearing on TV

LEE — A videotape of the Lee School Committee's public hearing on the School Department's \$4.3 million budget for fiscal 1992 will be telecast over Channel 11 on the Century Berkshire Cable Television system Thursday at 6 p.m., School Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said. The hearing, an annual event, drew an audience of more than 30 voters.

Zukowski credited Century Berkshire's general manager, Philip Hopkins, with encouraging the telecast over the cable system's public-access channel. Jack Leprevost, the school system's equipment manager, did the taping.

Of some interest to people in attendance at the hearing was the School Committee's decision during the night of April 23, when the hearing was held, to cut \$47,467 out of its budget proposal, dropping the final figure from \$4.35 million to a little over \$4.3 million.

Zukowski said the \$47,467 will be taken from the elementary principals' salary account, and the reduction signifies that in light of the retirement of former Lee Central School Principal Raymond B. Kavey the Central School will operate under one administrator next year instead of two. Assistant Principal Stephen Cozzaglio is the acting administrator now.

Zukowski said the committee is scheduled to make a decision May 7 on a permanent appointment for the administrator's post. Whether the title will be principal, supervisor, or something else is still up in the air, Zukowski said.

Eagle 4.28.91

Hodgkins defends effigy ads

LEE — State Sen. Christopher J. Hodgkins, a Democrat running for Congress, has defended his TV advertisements, saying that while the image of burning Republican Steven D. Pierce in effigy may be perceived as violent, it is only a picture.

"The commercial is only make-believe," Hodgkins said in a written statement. "Real violence is being done to real people: women, children and those who suffer from want or disease in this country by the Republicans in the White House." Hodgkins added that the intent of the ad is to show that he has "the heart and the stomach to carry the Democratic banner against the callous and selfish policies of the Republican Party."

Eagle 4.28.91

Lee weighs government changes

p. 84

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The audience was small Thursday, but if it reflected the town as a whole, it forecast a close vote May 13 when voters decide whether to accept the special act that creates Lee's first selectmen-administrator form of government.

"I think it will pass, but not this year," said William F. Derrick, a Main Street merchant and member of the Board of Assessors.

"It's got to pass," said outgoing Selectman William D. Bean. "It's very important we have this. It's a tool that's going to bring us into the 21st century."

"The fact is, Lee over the years has made a number of changes in its government. This is the logical next step," said David A. Booth, an urbanologist and professor of government at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "I think you'll find, if you give it a chance, it will work very well for you."

Informal hearing

The three were participants in an informal hearing at the Senior Center, scheduled by the Selectmen as a forum where townspeople could ask questions, air doubts and throw stones at the administrator proposal on which they will have an opportunity to vote in a little more than two weeks.

There were only 18 people present, but one of them wanted to know, "Where are you going to get the money to pay this guy? The town's broke."

Other queries involved money as well, particularly the \$45,000 included in the annual town meeting warrant to cover the salary of an administrator in case one is hired in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Some thought it was too much, and one, Derrick, thought it was a misleading figure because it did not include sums needed for a secretary, computer system and other expenses that he maintained would have to be made as well.

"In my mind, it's an \$80,000 job," he said.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa said there is already a Selectmen's secretary who would presumably work for the administrator, and Booth said no additional furnishings or expenses are needed, or contemplated, for an administrator to begin work.

History cited

Booth, who was hired three years ago as a consultant to survey town government and recommend legislation to provide administrative help for the town, said appointed administrators first appeared in Massachusetts town government in the 1920s and that "it's interesting to note that, with one exception, no town that has adopted an administrative form of government has ever

abandoned it."

The exception was the town of Orange in Franklin County, which did so during the Depression of the 1930s when town expenses were trimmed sharply, he said.

Eighty-four of the commonwealth's 323 towns, or about one in every four, have either town-manager or selectmen-administrator governments, said Booth afterward. More than half of the state's towns, he added, have some form of appointed administrative assistance, from town managers to executive secretaries. Four towns in Berkshire County have full-time administrators or managers, and several others have administrative assistants part time.

The legislation, Chapter 471 of the Acts of 1990, that establishes the selectmen-administrator framework for Lee, contains two changes from the proposal approved by a town meeting two years ago, said Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont.

One is that the offices of town clerk, treasurer, collector and the like remain elective offices (they were appointive under the original wording), and the other is the inclusion of a provision permitting the town to set up a charter commission "for the purpose of considering the appointment or election of persons to the positions of clerk, treasurer and collector, along with any other matters it may deem necessary."

Qualifications

As spelled out in the present act, the administrator would have to have a bachelor's degree and five years of full-time paid experience in a supervisory public-sector administrative position. A master's degree could be substituted for up to two years of paid experience, but no more than that.

Booth and members of the present Board of Selectmen said an administrator is needed because town budgets have reached a size, and municipal operations a complexity, that require full-time, professional supervision.

"I think you need a person like this," said Booth, "to keep a round-the-clock eye, if you will, on what is going on in town. You need such a person to prevent waste and duplication."

If voters accept the act on May 13, the Selectmen would then be empowered to advertise the job, interview and then appoint — by unanimous vote — an administrator.

But Derrick wanted to know if the town would get its money back through savings if it hired one, and J. Peter Scolforo, who is the town's public works superintendent, wanted to know why the town couldn't just hire one without the special legislation.

"I'm nervous that if we don't like this, we'll have to wait for new legislation to get out of it," Scolforo said.

Dupont said the Selectmen

could fire an administrator as well as hire one, and Martin H. Deely, a former selectman who is running for the office again in the coming election, said townspeople will have to look to more than just getting its money back.

"It isn't just saving," he said. "It's preventing things from falling through the cracks. You can't really quantify it, but it's there."

Lenox dispute

A number of speakers referred to the dispute over uncollected fees in the neighboring town of Lenox, and Deely suggested that that was the sort of thing a full-time administrator would prevent. In fact, Lenox is debating a plan to hire a professional town manager and expand its three-man Board of Selectmen to five.

Under Lee's plan, the Board of Selectmen would remain at three members.

"There's no reason Lee can't do what it wants," said Deely in regard to Scolforo's question about hiring an administrator without the benefit of a special act. "But without the act, you don't have the starch behind the person you would hire. If you don't have that starch, then the administrator goes around as a supplicant" rather than someone in charge.

Responding to other queries, Bean and Roosa said the administrator ought to be able to bring about cooperation among departments, even the autonomous School Department, to achieve savings in operations, purchasing and the like.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

David R. Dawdy, a gas station attendant and author of this article.

'This is Lee Mobil at mile 8. A rock. Through windshield'

David R. Dawdy, author of this report, works the overnight shift at the Mobil station on the eastbound side of the Turnpike in Lee.

By David R. Dawdy
Special to The Eagle

LEE — The moon is softened by the moist summer evening air, even though it is not yet summer. At 3:19 a.m. Sunday morning, with few truckers flogging themselves and their time-value cargoes along the Massachusetts Turnpike, the road is all but deserted.

The last customer was around 1:30 a.m., and with a coffee, the 11-7 shift was slowly winding down toward the inevitable dawn, which would appear as it had the last few mornings as a soft red hue over the sleeping town of Lee.

The pickup truck pulled in swiftly past the pumps and up even with the kiosk. The driver sits in the white cab and does not move, his round face as white as the truck itself.

"You have to help me," he says, still not moving an inch, one hand on the wheel, the

other not visible. I open the door to the booth cautiously as I say, "What's up?" still in the dark.

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Three young men were arrested last night in connection with the Turnpike death.
Page A1.

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DAWDY, continued on B4

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4.27.91

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Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

David R. Dawdy, a gas station attendant and author of this article.

'This is Lee Mobil at mile marker 8'

4.30.91

■ DAWDY, from B1

the trauma of his friend reflected in his fearful eyes.

I step backward, recoiling and distancing myself from the truck, wanting to help and get away at the same time, but not knowing how. I read the number I have never had to use off the long list of station-related suppliers and personnel: State Police.

I manage to get out the bare bones of the event. This is Lee Mobil at mile marker 8. A rock. Through the windshield. Passenger hurt. Send somebody. My name? Dave Dawdy.

I hang up and go back out to the truck. The look on the older man's face has turned to despair. The young man stops moaning.

'I don't know'

Is he still breathing? I ask. Put your hand by his mouth and nose. Can you feel anything? I don't know, he says. I think so. Time passes.

I'm going to my truck out by the back gate for a blanket, I say. I walk quickly, get the old child's sleeping bag used to guard moving furniture from nicks and scrapes, and contribute it for the cause.

He must be in shock, I think. It's chilly.

Start the truck and put the heater on, I say, and I push the cover through the window.

It's not for me, says the driver. Get it around him.

The driver does not move his arm that cradles the young man. I go around to pull the cotton bag with its hobbyhorses around the man slumped over against the driver.

I open the door and a piece of granite the size of a basketball falls with a dull thud onto the asphalt. I jump back to save my toes. I kick it out of the way and step over to pull the cover over the shoulders of the man.

I close the door. Try to calm myself down. Think. I begin to pray silently, invoking God the Healer, God the Remedy. Send peace and healing to the man who is wounded and to the man who is holding him. The shattered glass. The shattered life. The crushed ribs.

The man stops moaning. He throws up, just a little. He slumps lower.

3:35 a.m. "Where are they?" asks the driver.

I call the police number again. Identify myself. Ask the question that aches in my heart and that of the driver. When will the ambulance get here? The man doesn't look like he has much life force left in him.

I see the Turnpike cruiser coming from the east heading past us to the turn-around.

I go back out to the man who has said you have to help me and wonder what I can do but wait with him. The passenger throws up.

"Tell him to hang on, encourage him, talk to him," I offer. He does say that to his friend, though he wonders what good that will do.

The officer comes, looks in the window, goes to his trunk for a nylon bag. Feels the man's pulse.

Still a pulse.

The Lee volunteers arrive. They take over. The driver is relieved of his gruesome task. He begins to shake and lean up against the kiosk. I put my arm around him and hold him. It appears for a moment that he is going to throw up. He looks sad, desperate. Anguish fills his face as he looks over the scene. The paramedics put a brace around the man's neck. Two men pull out his collapsed body and, with some difficulty, get it on the stretcher and tie it down.

I put the old sleeping bag over the driver, who stops shivering. The ambulance moves off with the paramedics trying to pump life back into the body.

Someone thought, let's go down to the overpass and throw rocks onto the big trucks and watch them bounce off the roofs, it'll scare the s--t out of the drivers.

'This is Lee Mobil at mile 8. A rock. Through windshield'

David R. Dawdy, author of this report, works the overnight shift at the Mobil station on the eastbound side of the Turnpike in Lee.

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DAWDY, continued on B4



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Helen Larson, owner of the Upstairs Basement in Lee, examines a sweater.

Secondhand stores hope to benefit from slowdown

By Lynne A. Daley 4.28.91
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD
Merchants of secondhand clothing and household goods are at odds about whether a slowdown in the economy means more business.

Some said their business mirrored the economy: When retail sales are down, their sales are down.

Others said tough times draw people to the bargains that previously owned items offer.

Whether business is up or down, though, this does seem to be the year of secondhand clothing. During the last few months, three new shops have opened in the county, one in Adams and two in Pittsfield.

For those looking to buy more clothes for less money, secondhand clothes may be the answer. At the other end of the transaction,

selling clothes on consignment is a way for people to make a little extra money during tight times.

At Goodwill Industries' retail stores, where donors of merchandise take home nothing but a good feeling, manager Shirley Lyon is thrilled with the business she's been doing.

"We have been doing fantastic," Lyon said. "These were the best winter months that we ever had."

Lyon said that the well publicized economic slowdown not only brought buyers to the store, but also people with generous donations.

"Our stores are packed," she said. "Our donations are up, too."

Others, however, were more guarded. Sales are down across the board, they said,

Secondhand stores see hope in tough times 4.28.91

■ SECONDHAND, from F1

and that means consignment shops as well as elite boutiques.

"With this economy, no matter what they're buying, they're buying less," said Kathleen Ciccarello, president of the Junior League of Berkshire County. The Junior League's Thrift Shop is that organization's chief fundraiser, she said, and "it is making a profit."

Helen Larson, owner of the Upstairs Basement at 51 Main St. in Lee, agreed.

"I've been in this business for 20 years," she said. "It doesn't seem to get busier when times get tough."

"I sort of go along with the rest of the economy," Larson added. "The children's clothing might have picked up, but I think adults will just make do with what they already have. When it comes down to groceries or clothes, it's groceries. But children outgrow their clothes, so that's a necessity."

Retail bargains hurt

One merchant who specializes in used children's clothes and furnishings, however, complained of an entirely different problem. The recession, said Judy Johnson of Around the Town on North Street, has hit big retail stores so hard that they have slashed their prices to the bone. As a result, she said, sales at the 4-year-old store, which she purchased in September, are down.

"Hills has kid's summer clothes for \$3.50," Johnson said. "I can't beat \$3.50 brand-new, even though I'm selling things for \$1.25."

Also, she said, Service Merchandise is selling \$40 walkers for \$19. And where 25-percent-off sales at Bradlees ordinarily lasted a week, they now drag on for months.

"The big stores are marking their prices so low I just can't compete," she said. Most customers would pay that kind of differential, she added, to buy their children new items.

Consignment shops that specialize in high-quality goods are finding there is some safety in numbers, their owners said. As more of the stores open, more shoppers are introduced to the concept, which, according to one shop owner, is addictive.

In Adams, Nancy Lescarbeau, principal owner with two others of Experienced Attire at 1 East Hoosac St., said response to her

new store has been "outstanding."

"We've been receiving between 300 and 500 items of clothing a week," Lescarbeau said. "We have 180 consigners, and several [women] come in every week with stuff."

"There's definitely a following for these kinds of stores," said Laurie Caesar, owner of Sacks of Thrift Avenue, 312 Tyler St. "A lot of our customers make the rounds. And you can tell that a lot are coming to a consignment store for the first time. They're hesitant, and they tell me they're just checking it out."

Caesar, who opened her store just a few months ago, said she is doing about what she expected for business.

"I want to do better," she said, "and it is starting to pick up. But I'm pleased with what I have done."

Mary Cianflone, who recently opened her Yours, Mine & Ours shop at 54 Elm St., said she's "been doing great."

"I don't have much to complain about," said Cianflone, who is trying to keep her store stocked with items that range from low-price to "upscale."

Cianflone said that she expects her business to do well regardless of the economic climate. "I would think it would do well both ways," she said.

The two new Pittsfield stores are combining with Cobi's Just a Second of Lenox to put on a fashion show — the Elite Repeat Fashion Follies — on May 5 to benefit charity and to spread the word about what's available on consignment.

Worn very little

Cobi Senus of Cobi's Just a Second said her business was up from last year. That could be the result of the economy, she said, or her decision to stock higher-quality goods.

Senus said she is all for healthy competition as a means of informing people about the great bargains available for people in consignment shops, where many clothes have been worn only once or twice — if at all.

"The [consignment] stores are popping up everywhere," she said. "And the people are shopping everywhere — going from one to the other. We're trying to improve the image of the consignment shops. We don't have junk, we have good quality clothing."

SECONDHAND, continued on F8

Lee neighbors complain of 'illegal' business

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Residents on Devon Road say Michael Van Zandt, who has a house and three-bay garage on the road, is operating a metal-fabrication business there in violation of the town's zoning bylaw.

Van Zandt's wife, Lee, said there is no metal fabrication there. Her husband, who has a business called Michael Van Zandt Inc., maintains an office and parks vehicles at the Devon Road address, she said, but has permits from the town to do so. Otherwise, the business is conducted in Dalton, she said.

Devon Road is in a residential-agricultural zone that does not permit manufacturing.

The contention that Van Zandt is violating the bylaw was made at a Selectmen's meeting last

night. Arthur Artig, a resident of Devon Road who lives near but not next to the Van Zandts, told Selectman William D. Bean that another neighbor had recorded on videotape truck traffic and other activity at the Van Zandt homestead.

Artig turned four of the tapes over to the Selectmen, who have turned them over to Building Inspector Robert W. Lester and have asked Lester to investigate the allegations.

Bean said he had watched some of the videotapes and found them to depict work at the garage during daylight hours that reflected considerable truck traffic and, on occasion, delivery of material heavy and bulky enough that two men were needed to carry it into the garage.

The Selectmen also received a

copy of a letter from Pittsfield attorney John J. Martin Jr. to Local 260 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in Pittsfield stating that a lawsuit might be filed against the union for libel and slander.

The plaintiff in the action would be Souliere & Zepka Construction Inc. of Adams, a contracting firm that has just completed a \$657,000 renovation of Lee's century-old Memorial Town Hall.

The business agent for the carpenters' union, Robert Wright, had charged in a letter last December that Souliere & Zepka were in violation of the prevailing-wage law that requires that tradesmen on public-sector construction jobs be paid the "prevailing wage" that is based on union pay scales in various locales in the commonwealth.

John and Michael Zepka, brothers and officers in the company, stoutly denied they violated the law and said the union agent's contentions were false.

Although addressed to the union, Martin's letter is primarily aimed at Wright, who had made the allegations of wage-law violations and sent copies of his letter to The Eagle, which published stories about it and about Souliere & Zepka's response in late December and early January.

What is asked, Martin said, is that the union settle the issue out of court by offering to pay damages and make some sort of public apology. He said he would think the latter would necessitate "a substantial paid advertisement in The Eagle at the least."

The Department of Labor and Industries sent investigators to the Town Hall work site, but did so as much because it routinely investigates prevailing-wage projects as because of the carpenters' union request for an investigation.

Wright said at the time there were a number of union carpenters out of work and he was concerned about them.

Hodgkins already looking to 1992

■ HODGKINS, from A1 5-1-91
and \$60,000 in contributions on his race against seven Democratic opponents. He said the campaign had not added any gray to his prematurely graying head, but he had lost some weight.

He had campaigned from 5 in the morning to 9 at night, day after day, putting 1,100 miles a week on his Chevrolet, which "died" and had to be replaced by a leased Ford. Joseph F. Marino of South Lee, a laid-off GE worker, served as his volunteer driver.

He had used a combination of grass-roots, door-to-door contacts and aggressive advertisements on television and in the newspapers to develop the voter turnout and name recognition he considered critical to a win.

Along with several other can-

didates, he suffered for a couple of weeks from a fever and a cold. He was still coughing occasionally last night.

What would he do differently if he had it to do all over again? "Send Sherwood [Guernsey] two tickets to Bermuda," joked Hodgkins. He had lost vital votes to Guernsey in Pittsfield.

Earlier in the evening, Hodgkins and his wife, the former Deborah A. Kelly, spent more than an hour in front of the Senior Center in Lee, where his spirits rose visibly as friends and neighbors greeted their native son. His win there, announced shortly after the polls closed at 8, was a landslide: 1,139 to Guernsey's second-place finish, with 111 votes.

"This town's always been good to me," he said. In 1982, Lee residents helped him win his first campaign for state representative by only six votes.

Hodgkins said he would feel like a winner no matter what because of the widespread support he had garnered from campaign workers inside and outside the Berkshires. He said he'd be happy with 20 percent of the vote.

"We feel good," Hodgkins said. "We've worked hard. People have just been terrific."



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins and his wife, Deborah, relax last night at the Tally-Ho Barn at Eastover. The Tally-Ho was the spot the late Silvio O. Conte chose to celebrate many of his congressional victories.

5-1-91

Eagle

Hodgkins:
'Look out
in '92'

By Abby Pratt
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LENEX — Arriving for a campaign party at the Eastover resort around 10 last night, state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins was already admitting defeat after an intense 12-week primary campaign for the late Silvio O. Conte's congressional seat.

"I feel good," said Hodgkins, looking subdued but still smiling. Perhaps 200 supporters greeted him with hugs and handshakes. "I'll take second."

In fact, soon afterward, with 99 percent of the vote in, the Associated Press was reporting the Lee Democrat running third, behind state Sen. John W. Oliver, and state Sen. Linda J. Melconian. However, he had surpassed his Berkshire County rival, Sherwood Guernsey of Williamstown.

Still feisty

An hour later, Hodgkins thanked his supporters and conceded defeat with characteristic feistiness. Referring to the special election June 4, he said of the primary victors, Oliver and Republican Steven D. Pierce, "Whoever wins, he'd better look out in '92."

Hodgkins, 33, had wagered \$75,000 in loans

HODGKINS, continued on A5

Lee gets high praise

The Lee Selectmen -- who are most accustomed to hearing complaints about the town -- received a welcome letter this week from a West Virginia man who had nothing but praise for the town.

Gary Collins of Glenville, W.Va., wrote the board that he had visited Lee many years ago. "I recently stopped again and I couldn't believe how beautiful the city of Lee looks today."

Collins asked if the Lee Selectmen could send information about the town to the executive director of the Gilmer County (W.Va.) Industrial Development Association. Apparently, despite the prevailing self-criticism in Lee, at least one community considers Lee a model town.

"We don't get letters like this too often," says Lee Selectman Diane Roosa.

Advocate 5-1-91

Lee cracks down on commercial use on Devon Road property

Based on evidence from a videotape, the Lee Selectmen directed Building Inspector Robert Lester to investigate the use of a house and garage on Devon Road for a metal-fabrication business. Neighbors alerted Selectman William D. Bean this weekend to the problem and gave him eight hours of videotape to review to back their claim.

"Although the tape was quite boring, it was quite apparent something was going on," Bean says. He says the property -- which town officials say belongs to Michael Van Zandt -- is used for running a sheet-metal operation six days a week.

Before issuing an order to close the operation, however, the selectmen said they needed to check to see if the business had received the proper permits. Some town officials say the company may have received a variance many years ago.

Construction company at Lee Memorial Hall threatens suit

Souliere & Zepka Construction Inc. of Adams has accused Robert Wright, the representative for United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, for slander.

Wright accused the construction company last December of paying subcontractors' workers at the Lee Memorial Hall renovation project less than the prevailing wage for public construction projects.

Souliere & Zepka vigorously denied the charges and now has hired the law firm Martin Law Offices to sue Wright and the union for the remarks. Wright said in December that the company was taking jobs on the project away from local carpenters. No amount was specified in the lawsuit that Martin Law Offices has prepared to bring to court.



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A canopy of green in Lee

Drivers on U.S. Route 7 this spring may take note of the scenic canopy of green trees that line much of the road through Lee. While the trees have always been there, this year the stretch of road is particularly scenic -- similar to a cathedral of trees -- thanks to tree work done along a half-mile segment by Col. George Wilde, owner of High Lawn Farm on both sides of the road. Wilde's public gesture proves that just because the state has reduced spending doesn't mean people can't do something to help the state of the roads.

Advocate 5-1-91

Allocation For Hazardous Waste Collection

To The Editor

At the annual town meetings this spring, the residents of Lenox and Stockbridge will be voting on allocating funds for participating in a multi-town household hazardous waste collection sponsored by the Tri-Town Health Department of Lee.

Lenox residents will vote on the allocation of \$4,000 on May 3. Stockbridge residents will vote on the allocation of \$3,000 on May 20. The collection is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1991. Lee has already approved funds for this collection, but is waiting to hold the collection pending participation by at least one other town. Because of set-up and disposal companies, it generally is more economical for smaller towns to sponsor and hold such collections together. The Tri-Town Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection are encouraging towns to sponsor these collections, perhaps every year or two, to allow residents to dispose of the accumulated hazardous wastes.

Lee Courier 5-2-91

'Intent To Sell'

To The Editor

In a recent "In Brief" editorial in *The Berkshire Eagle* I was angry about the news media bled so badly about one young man who will spend two years on Second Street for possession of pot with intent to sell near or at a school; his co-defendant will join him at the end of the month.

To those bleeding hearts in our news media, the legal profession and in our society in general, ask yourselves this question: suppose these two had sold pot or other drugs to your children or grandchildren at school near a school, would you bleed so badly? Again, it is high time for our judges, lawyers and other legal authorities as well as the bleeding heart members of society to start thinking of the victims of crime or potential victims and less on the rights of criminals. Everyone should have their day in court and be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. But if convicted he or she should be punished with fines, jail, prison or, in the case of first degree murder, the electric chair.

Let our society, the news media and our legal profession worry less about the hoods in our society and more about their victims.

John R. Copeland

Courier 5-2-91

Some typical household hazardous wastes are oil paint, used motor oil, pesticides, batteries, solvents, drain cleaners, silver polish, floor and furniture polish and mouse poisons.

Health agencies feel that these collections provide a method for safe disposal or destruction of these chemicals by processors equipped to handle them. Also, the separation out of hazardous trash focuses awareness on just what chemicals are used in the home; the available less toxic and non-toxic options for some of these products; the protection of groundwater, especially near wells, from improper disposal on the ground; and the protection of sanitation department and wastewater plant employees from exposure to these toxic, flammable, corrosive or explosive chemicals.

Diane Larrivee
Tri-Town Health Department

Lee

Deely vs. Bailey for Lee Selectman

Lee voters will be given a choice between two experienced and very active men when they pick a new selectmen for the town at the annual town election on May 13.

Vying for a three-year seat being vacated by outgoing Selectman William D. Bean are Martin Deely and Gordon Bailey. Both men say they want to reinvigorate town government to become more proactive and they both favor the town adopting a town-administrator form of government.

The selectmen's race tops off a lengthy list of contested seats in this year's election. This week's SOUTH ADVOCATE will profile the candidates for selectmen and next week we will offer briefer descriptions of the candidates for contested posts.

The board of selectmen will be faced with a series of issues during the next year. Depending on the outcome of another vote in the election to raise the town's Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit, the board may have to make some drastic cuts in the town budget.

Further, the board will oversee the projected development of a light-industrial park during these recessionary times and will assist in making major decisions for the town's landfill, water-treatment plant and sewer system.

Finally, the board may oversee the transition of town government to include a town administrator who officials hope will bring efficiency to town government. All the present selectmen and both candidates for selectman this year favor the creation of the position. The major point of dispute is whether the administrator will be able to appoint the town clerk, treasurer, collector and board-of-health positions. According to the proposal up for a vote, those positions will remain elective.

Candidate profiles



Gordon Bailey

"I think that when you live in a community like Lee, you owe something back. It's fun and exciting," he says. Deely won the Democratic caucus.

Gordon Bailey, 38, is the owner of Grey Haven Inc., a building contractor. He has been an active member of the Lee Planning Board for the last three years. He has been involved in the Masonic Lodge for 10 years, has been a member of the town Housing Opportunity Partnership, and has helped coordinate the *Masters Run*, a relay run across Massachusetts that raises money for the *Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)* program.

Bailey says he favors a town administrator and would like the town to seek more innovative ways to recycle its waste. He says he would want to work closely with Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division in developing the landfill property. As a selectmen, Bailey says he would try to put the selectmen's and other town meetings on



Martin Deely

public-access television (Channel 11) to both broaden participation in town government and to better inform residents about town issues.

"There are a lot of times when the townspeople can give their input, and they should," Bailey says. "There's a horrible apathy out there. I hope that this would generate some interest from people."

Bailey says he would like to improve communication between town boards and make town government more accessible to the public. As a planning-board member, Bailey says he has helped develop a bylaw for a light-industrial zoning district and he would like to "light a fire" under the town to be more active in developing the state Route 102 property as an industrial park.

"The selectmen have to take the lead in the town by being more constructive in what they do," he says. "I'd like to bring a positive attitude to the board."

Lee baby town meeting May 2

Lee voters can get an early opportunity Thursday (May 2) to learn about the budget and town-administrator proposal at the baby town meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Senior Center.

Town officials will explain the town's 45-article warrant and answer questions about it and other town issues. Town officials have proposed an \$8.6 million budget that will require a \$255,000 override of Proposition 2 1/2. Town officials say the budget is needed to maintain existing services.

In a related matter, the Lee School Committee decided last week to cut its budget by \$47,000 by reducing the administrators' salaries at Lee Central School. Lee School Superintendent Henry Zukowski says the department will most likely eliminate the vice principal's position at the elementary school, leaving one administrator in charge of supervising the building.

The Lee school-budget hearing will be transmitted on Thursday at 6 p.m. on the public-access station (Channel 11).

Although contract negotiations with the teachers union are incomplete, Zukowski says the school department's budget will be \$4.3 million next year. Any negotiated increases in salaries will be absorbed through cuts in the budget, he says.

The Town Meeting will be held on May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Central School Auditorium.

Characters Abound At Joe's Counter

LEE—There's no doubt that Joe's Diner has character — lots of them. John and Bill Higgins of South Street, Pittsfield, are definitely two of the patrons of the Center Street attraction who proudly call themselves "The Regulars."

The 71-year-old twins, who discovered the place over five years ago when they were driving home from a visit with their nephew in Richmond, dine at Joe's every single evening except Sundays. Sitting in the number one and two seats at the end of the counter, Bill and John trust Joe completely with their appetites.

"They have to eat whatever meal we put on the table when they walk through that door," said Joe Sorrentino, the owner of the establishment that has been dubbed the unofficial town hall of Lee, in a half serious, half joking manner.

The waitresses working the counter have the twins' designated spots already set with everything from the silverware to the Vienna bread when the two walk in the door for what the Higgins' boys call "their main meal of the day."

Last Monday night John and Bill, wearing the "company uniforms" — green sweatshirts with a rendering of their favorite restaurant on the front — were served roast lamb.

"Monday night's special is either roast lamb or roast beef," explained Bill.

"But Joe knows we like the lamb so he always saves us some." Holding up a fresh piece of asparagus and bowl full of green salad he added that Joe "always makes sure you have all the trimmings to go with your meal."

"Oh it's really good food," said John.

"Joe really knows how to take care of everybody."

John and Bill have found a way to repay the favor.

"One night after we had eaten, we saw Joe out here sweeping the sidewalk. That was about seven o'clock at night and we knew that he'd already put in twelve hours of work that day," said Bill as he handed his brother a broom and started to rid the sidewalk of the day's collection of cigarette butts.

"So we decided to take over that little job for Joe. You know — do our little part to keep this the great place it is."

Christine Burns



Roadside campaigner

Eagle

5-1-91

Chester Sears of Lee campaigns for Sherwood Guernsey near the entrance to the Hancock polling place yesterday.

Say It Ain't So, Joe

Berkshire Record

By Christine Burns

LEE — It may not be the end of the world — but for late night snackers in Southern Berkshire County, eliminating the graveyard shift at Joe's Diner marks the end of an eating era.

"It's just so different these days," said Joe Sorrentino — the man behind the name of the Center Street eatery — which until last Friday night served every single one of its 285 menu items 24 hours a day, six days a week.

"Our's used to be the only place in town where you could get any food at that time of night. Now, there's three or four places people can go. We used to have plenty of employees to work the shift, too. Now, nobody stays around that long. We've gone through at least 50 employees in the last five or six years."

It takes three people to man the stations on week nights and five people to handle the Friday night crowd.

"It takes at least a year for them to learn how to work the grill and to get really good. If a person comes in here at three in the morning and wants stuffed sole with rice, the cook's got to know how to give it to them," said Joe.

He added that "no one really ever wants" to work that shift which also attributes the problem of finding help.

Sorrentino said that he couldn't ignore the effect of the crunching economic situation on the amount of munching currently taking place along his fifteen-foot-formica counter top. He explained that in the past a major part of his nighttime business came from Kimberly-Clark mill employees who were either finishing their shift at 11 p.m. or on a coffee break in the middle of the night.

"Now I bet there are 10 guys running that whole mill over there at night. And if they just want coffee, it's just as easy for them to run over to the convenience store as it is to come here," said Joe.



Photo by Paul Kalkley

The last late-night supper at Joe's.

times the night crowd would get into a six hour daily shutdown. The new hours will be 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Friday and 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Joe's sons Mike, Frank, and Sam currently work with their father in the family business.

All seven Sorrentino children, as well as Joe's wife of 35 years Theresa, have seen time either behind the counter or in front of the grill since he bought the place at 4:30 p.m. on March 9, 1955 for \$5,500.

Frank, 29, has worked the late shift for the past fourteen years and can only recall missing a very few Friday night stints.

"Friday nights are the busiest because that's when we get the biggest crowds either from the shows, the movies or the bars."

that we don't get a lot of those strange, special orders," said his younger brother Sam.

"Who says you even get to order," charged one late night patron, obviously a long-time friend of Frank's who was possibly a little rambunctious from a few too many tips of the bottle.

"You just make me eat whatever you put on the counter."

"That's because you always eat what we give you," retorted Frank.

"What did we give you to-night? Huh? Club sandwich? D'you like it?"

The joking customer knew he'd met his match and could only shake his head in agreement. "That's exactly what I thought you'd say."

CON'T ON BACK COVER



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Firefighters pour water into the burning home of Robert and Rosemarie Dupont. Painted orange with purple trim, it was a Lee landmark.

Couple escapes as Lee home burns

By Gerald B. O'Connor
and Mary-Jane Tichenor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A Lee couple, jolted awake early yesterday morning as flames engulfed their 12 Robert St. home, were rescued by a quick-thinking policeman who put up a ladder to the porch roof where they had been momentarily stranded.

The fire, whose cause was unknown yesterday, destroyed the house and its contents, as well as a passenger car parked in the garage at the rear.

The owners, Robert R. Dupont and his

wife, Rosemarie, were awakened in their second-floor bedroom when, Robert Dupont said, "I heard this banging or popping noise downstairs and got up."

His wife said she heard the smoke alarm at the same time.

Dupont guessed the noises he heard might have been "windows blowing out" but he was not sure.

The two climbed out a window over the porch roof and heard someone who stood below telling them to jump. "No way were we going to jump," said Dupont as he stood across the street later,

watching firefighters battling the flames. "I just fell off a tree on Jan. 7, about 30 feet above the ground. I'm lucky to be alive as it is."

The person calling to him turned out to be a Lee policeman, who promptly got a ladder and propped it against the porch roof. The ladder was not hard to come by because Dupont is a painting contractor — Dupont Painting Inc. — and his two trucks were in the yard with equipment aboard.

One of the trucks was parked close enough to the house so that its rear was scorched. A relative of Dupont's drove it

to safety. The other truck was parked far enough away to escape damage.

Police investigating

Firefighters and equipment from the Lee and Lenox volunteer fire departments came to the scene about 1 a.m. Lee Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll had no comment as to the cause of the fire yesterday. He was conferring with Trooper Michael Mazza of the Massachusetts State Police, who is assigned to the state fire marshal's office.

Sgt. Robert G. Scott, who is command-

FIRE, continued on B7

Lee house burns; occupants escape

■ FIRE, from B1

ing officer of the state police crime prevention and control unit in the county, to which Mazza is also attached, said Mazza had begun an investigation into the origin and cause of the fire at Driscoll's request.

"There was pretty extensive damage, so I guess it's going to take a while," Scott said. That the fire is being investigated does not mean it was of suspicious origin, he said.

There were no injuries. The Duponts were the only ones in the house at the time.

The seven-room, wood-frame building, which is at the corner of Robert and East Center streets, has often been a conversation piece in Lee because of the brilliant colors, pumpkin and purple, in which it had been painted.

Dupont, an outgoing painting contractor, adopted them years ago as his company colors. His trucks are painted the same shades.

Cookbook collection

One of the losses that he and his wife both mentioned was Rosemarie Dupont's vast collection of cookbooks. "She must have 2,000 to 3,000 of them," Dupont said.

"I like cookbooks and I like to cook," she explained, managing a smile in the face of misfortune. She was wrapped in a blanket, but was barefoot in the chilly morning hours as the house burned. The thermometer hov-

ered around 38 degrees.

Firefighters were on the scene for several hours.

The house and lot were assessed at \$110,400, according to Betty Larrivee, an assistant Lee assessor.

The Duponts had lived there for about 20 years, Robert DuPont said.

Six pumpers and a tanker were brought to the scene from four fire stations, the South Lee and Lee Central fire stations and the Lenox Central and Lenox Dale fire stations. Men and equipment from the Tyringham Fire Department stood by at Lee Central Station, Driscoll said.

Lee and Stockbridge police departments sent patrol cars to block surrounding roads in order to keep the area free of non-essential vehicles. Neighbors who lived along the street watched the blaze and talked with the Duponts, offering assistance.

The house is insured, DuPont said. He said he assumes he will tear down what's left of it and put up another one.

Firm hired for revaluation in Lee

LEE — Lee's Board of Assessors has contracted for a new valuation of commercial fixtures and equipment that would be classified as business personal property in town, Assessors' Chairman Edward M. Briggs said.

As a result, employees of the Dolan & Rossi Appraisal Co. of Springfield will begin inspecting all Lee businesses this week to identify and list taxable personal property. Briggs said board members are asking merchants and business owners to cooperate with the appraisers.

The last time commercial personal property was revalued was in 1987.

Revaluation of real and personal property is required by state law every three years, and while personal property values were updated last year, a full appraisal is needed now, Briggs said.

Dolan & Rossi charge \$35 an account for valuations. If there are 100 accounts, for example, the fee would be \$3,500.

Revolutionary spirit is alive in Hinsdale

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Hooray for the people of Hinsdale for so decisively continuing to resist the advances of yet one more plunderer of our priceless Berkshire heritage.

The spirit and style recalls another heritage traceable to Shays' Rebellion, when Yankees returning from the Revolutionary War refused to bow to unjust taxation of their farmland.

Hinsdale joins the ranks of other activist Berkshire County communities who have rightly taken their ecological destinies into their own hands.

In Hinsdale, the wolf in sheep's clothing is called Hinsdale Environmental Resources Inc. In Lee, its name was the Lee Mass. Co-generation Company.

Lee
Berkshire Eagle
5-6-91
DEIURE CONSOLATI

Chances for Lee override questioned

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The feeling among the handful of people at a "baby" town meeting here earlier this week was that most other townspeople don't care about the town, feel they cannot afford to pay for its services and will vote on May 13 to kill a \$255,000 tax override without knowing, or caring about, the consequences.

That is assuming that town meeting representatives beforehand adopt a budget that requires an override.

Such glum evaluations came to the surface in the preliminary town meeting Thursday night at the Airolodi Building where the Selectmen, several Finance Committee members and about a dozen of the 54 town meeting representatives aired the proposed town budget and warrant for next year.

Meeting to be Thursday

The annual town meeting will be next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Central School. A special town meeting to make adjustments and transfers within the current year's budget will precede it at 7.

About half of the 31 people in attendance Thursday night were town officials of one kind or another.

Several of them deplored the

evident lack of interest in the upcoming town meeting.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask went over the proposed budget, which is just shy of \$8.57 million, and said the \$255,000 override of the Proposition 2½ levy limit is necessary to meet it and to maintain town services as they now exist.

Costs have risen largely because of inflation, increases in fixed costs over which the town has no control and negotiated employee raises, he said.

If the committee's charge had been to recommend a budget "within the town's means" rather than a level-services budget, "then there would have been no override," he said.

However, town services would have been cut, he said.

If voters at the May 13 election refuse to approve the override, cuts of some kind will have to be made anyway. The tax-limiting law requires that overrides be approved by voters.

Possible cuts

No one could recommend specific cuts, even though there was a range of suggestions.

John E. DeVarenes, chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee and a member of the Finance Committee, suggested that any cut has a consequence. He said if the Selectmen should decide, for ex-

ample, that shutting town offices one day a week would bring costs into line with what the town is willing to pay, town employees would not be likely to accept the attendant 20 percent pay cut without protest.

"I'm sure if the override doesn't pass," said Selectman William D. Bean, "the town unions will cooperate" in measures to reduce costs. One step would be to renegotiate wage agreements, he said, but if this fails there would have to be layoffs.

The news that the Selectmen had agreed to a 3 percent raise with members of the Lee Employees Association late last winter and that police, public works employees and teachers are still in negotiation for contracts that could include additional raises appeared to strike several listeners as reflecting poor planning.

One town meeting representative, James E. Nolan, wanted to

know if employees were aware of the financial vise the town is in: declining state aid, declining revenues, rising costs and rising unemployment.

"Keeping a job is better than getting a raise and getting laid off," he said, drawing attention to the possibility that the only way to control costs may be to lay off some workers.

Department requests

Trask said if his committee and the Selectmen had acceded to the budget requests from all the departments, the necessary override would have been nearly \$1 million.

But because unemployment in Lee closely follows unemployment trends in the county as a whole — the latest figure is 12.5 percent — the requests were chopped.

Joblessness is continuing to go up, said Nolan. "It's going to be 20 percent by next summer. And there's no work out there."

Lee board to interview candidates for principal

LEE — Stephen Cozzaglio and Warren Reynolds are the two candidates for the principalship of Lee Central School, and the School Committee is scheduled to interview them at 7:45 tonight in a regular meeting at the school.

Cozzaglio, who has been the assistant principal, is now the acting administrator of the school. He was assigned the task when the former principal, Raymond B. Kavey, retired on March 8.

Reynolds is the school system's psychologist administrator.

They are the only two candidates for the post, which was advertised within the school system alone.

Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said yesterday it was not certain whether the committee will make an appointment tonight or wait until a subsequent meeting.

Interviews will be a half-hour each. Which of the candidates will be interviewed first will be decided by lot.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 with a presentation by students in the education technology program at Lee High School. The program, which introduces students to computer programming and computer-assisted design and other applications, is new this year. The instructors are Nicholas Caimano and Philip O'Rourke.

Lee Voters to Decide Fate \$255,000 Override Issue

By Gina Gold

LEE—Residents will be asked to vote on a \$255,000 override of the tax-limiting Proposition 2 1/2 at the Annual Town Meeting. With a 12.5-percent employment rate already crushing Lee's economy, it seems unlikely that voters will agree to take on a tax increase. This was the sentiment expressed last week at a "baby" town meeting in which the major issues facing the town were discussed.

The figure for the override was arrived at by the finance committee, whose members devised a budget to keep services level with last year. Finance committee chairman Robert Trask says that even with the override, the \$8.56 million budget is "bare bones."

In the event that the override fails it would mean town officials have to cut further, possibly eliminating the jobs of police, teachers or other town employees. Less severe alternatives would include wage freezes and one-day a week shut downs of non-essential services.

At the same time, voters are being asked to spend \$49,500 to

hire a town administrator. However, town officials believe that this is an expense that cannot and should not be spared. Selectmen chairman Joseph F. DuPont says a town administrator will pay for his or herself by creating a system of government that runs more efficiently and hence more economically. Lenox residents voted 322-54 at their annual town meeting to hire a town manager, a post similar to that of town administrator.

The increases in Lee's budget, officials say, are the result of escalating insurance costs, the administrator's position and a 3 percent salary raise for town employees.

The final decision on the budget is in the hands of the town representatives. If the representatives approve the override but the voters do not, town officials must come up with a new budget to be presented at a special town meeting.

A fear expressed at the "baby" town meeting is that neither the representatives nor the voters are familiar enough with the town's situation to make well-informed decisions.

The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, May 6, 1991 — C3



Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Longerato

Longeratos are honored

LEE — Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Longerato of East Center Street were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at a party on Jan. 25 at the Ramada Inn, West Springfield. Twenty-five attended the party, given by the couple's children and grandchildren.

Mr. Longerato, a native of Sorio, Italy, moved to Lee as a child. He and his wife, the former Tessie Pieklik of Housatonic, were married on Jan. 26, 1941, at All Saints' Church, Housatonic.

The Longeratos have five chil-

dren, Mrs. Diane Bianco, Mrs. Joan Tisdale, Ms. Ann Bona and Robert Longerato, all of Lee, and Mrs. Linda Krell of Palm Bay, Fla. They also have 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Longerato, was a superintendent at the Greylock Mill of Kimberly-Clark Corp. He retired in 1980 after 42 years of service. He is a former member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. Longerato is a homemaker.

Cozzaglio is named Lee Central head

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The School Committee has named Stephen A. Cozzaglio, longtime vice principal, to the principality of Lee Central School. He succeeds Raymond B. Kavey, who retired March 8.

The choice was between Cozzaglio and Warren Reynolds, psychologist/administrator in the school system, who had also applied for the post. They were interviewed by the School Committee in successive half-hour sessions on Tuesday night.

Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski endorsed Cozzaglio, who will receive a salary in the \$50,000 range. It is still subject to negotiation, Zukowski said.

School Committee Chairman Edward M. Lahey said both men "interviewed very well and were obviously very qualified candidates." There was no need to advertise beyond the school system, he said, because it was apparent there were good candidates within.

The vice principal's post will remain empty for the coming year, an economy move, said Zukowski. The action will cut the elementary principals' account from \$103,252 this year to \$54,629 next year.

In Cozzaglio's first official day as principal yesterday, it was pretty much business as usual. He greeted children at the door, visited classrooms, met with teachers, sorted out the facts in a dispute between two boys, each of whom said the other spit on him, and prepared to leave for a three-day meeting of the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association in Hyannis. He had signed up for the meeting two months ago.

Cozzaglio, 59, is a native of North Adams and a graduate of Drury High School and North Adams State College. He has a master's degree in education from Springfield College and another 40 graduate credits from North Adams, Westfield State and Allegheny colleges and the University of Massachusetts.

Describing his stint at Allegheny under a National Science Foundation award in geology, he recalled that he was the only one in the program to find the fossil of a prehistoric trilobite during a field trip. "The fellow in charge had said anyone who found one would get an A," he said with a chuckle. "Well, I found one, but I didn't get an A."

He served two years in the Army from 1954 to 1956, stationed



Stephen A. Cozzaglio

in Washington, D.C. He taught at the Stockbridge Plain School from 1956 through 1962, then became a 7th grade teacher at Lee Central from 1962 through '69. He was director of the Lee Summer School for two of those years. He became vice principal in 1969.

Active in community

Outside of school, Cozzaglio has been widely active. He has been an organizer of the Berkshire County Soccer Officials Association, president of the County Teachers Association, program chairman for the Lee YMCA, treasurer of the Lee Youth Committee, president of the Lee Kiwanis Club, grand knight of the Lee Council of the Knights of Columbus, chairman of the Lee Council on Aging, a director of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, a division chairman for Berkshire United Way, chairman of the Lee Republican Town Committee, treasurer of the Lee Visiting Nurse Association and a Lee town meeting representative since 1971, among a number of endeavors.

He and his wife, the former Sandra Primmer of North Adams, live on Davis Street and have three children, Jeffrey and Jay Alexander, who both live in California, and Jill Marie, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

& Town

The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, May 9, 1991 — B3

Opposition heard to funding Lee town administrator's post

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — There is some belief among town government observers here that an appropriation for a full-time town administrator will be rejected tonight when representatives convene for Lee's annual town meeting at 7:30 at Lee Central School.

Behind this belief is a perception that the recommended sum, \$49,500 to cover an administrator's salary and expenses, is too great an outlay to be made in a financially difficult year.

Wait until next year say those who hold to this belief.

But even if the town meeting appropriates the \$49,500, or even a lesser sum, town voters still must vote to accept the special legislative act, Chapter 471 of the Acts of 1990, that creates the selectmen-administrator form of government for Lee in the first place.

And whereas there is some sense that town meeting representatives may vote down the money appropriation, there is little or no feeling how rank-and-file voters feel about the concept itself.

Perceives support

"I think voters will accept it," said Gordon D. Bailey, a member of the Planning Board who is running for selectman. "I don't think there's any question it's needed."

The present Board of Selectmen feels the same and says an administrator, once in office, will prove his or her value through greater communication among departments, professionalism, legal knowledge, management skills and financial acumen that, among other things, will identify non-tax funds for which the town is eligible and may apply.

When the neighboring town of Lenox approved the plan for a town manager, a comparison was made between Lenox, which has no manager, and Adams, which does, to find that the town of

Adams had obtained more than five times the grant money than Lenox.

"We are getting near the time when the town budget will top \$10 million," said outgoing Lee Selectman William D. Bean. "Any company with a budget that size doesn't rely on part-time help."

But Town Moderator Joseph M. Toole said he believes many voters do not see a need for an administrator form of government. An administrator has somewhat less authority than a town manager and is more strictly answerable to selectmen. "It's like the saying 'If it's not broke, don't fix it,'" said Toole, adding, "I don't see what's broke."

As spelled out in the special act, the administrator would be hired by and answerable to the Selectmen but would be the town's fiscal and personnel officer. He or she would appoint town department heads and "all employees and subordinates and officers" who are not otherwise appointed by the Selectmen or town moderator.

Some people say this division of appointment authority is confusing, but the act makes it clear that the Selectmen will continue to appoint the town counsel and members of all appointed boards, committees and commissions that they now do.

The moderator will appoint the Finance Committee, leaving it to the administrator to appoint the full-time employees who are not elected to their offices.

The present spectrum of elected officers will continue to be elected: town meeting members, moderator, Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Housing Authority, assessors,

Planning Board, Community Development Corporation, town clerk, treasurer, collector, Board of Health and constables.

It has taken Lee about 3½ years to get this far with its administrator proposal, and it may take another year to discover if the town will finally vote its acceptance.

That's because the act gives the town this year and next to accept it at the annual town elections. If it's rejected both times, the proposal will be lost, and the town will have to go back to square one and propose special legislation again.

Should the town meeting refuse to appropriate funds for an administrator tonight, voters could still accept the legislation at the annual election Monday, putting machinery in place so that at some future town meeting a salary could be appropriated and the hiring process begun.

Bailey, the selectman candidate, said he hopes the town meeting will appropriate, if not the full amount, at least enough to do the research and begin the search process, even enough to pay an administrator for part of a year.

"There is no way," he said, "that the town would hire an administrator right away anyway," a feeling shared by current Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. DuPont.

Lee town meeting votes funds for administrator

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee's prospective marriage to the town administrator form of government moved a large step closer to the altar last night when town meeting representatives approved \$49,500 for salary and recruitment expenses for the first administrator in the fiscal year starting July 1.

But town voters must still add their acceptance to the legislation creating the administrator's post when they cast ballots in the annual town election on Monday.

At the same time, they will vote on the town's first proposed override of the spending limits dictated by Proposition 2½. Last year, they voted to exclude selected capital expenditures from the law's tax limit, which many people feel is the same thing.

Voters thought favorable

How they will vote on the administrator form of government is anyone's guess, but several of the representatives said last night they believe voters favor it, as set forth in special legislation signed into law at

the end of 1990. The act creates a framework of government that retains the three-member Board of Selectmen but adds a full-time administrator who, answerable to the board, would be the town's fiscal, personnel and administrative officer.

If voters turn it down, the appropriation will be without force, but the legislative act gives the town until next year's annual town meeting and election to submit it to the voters again. If it fails that time, it will be lost forever, unless an initiative for new legislation is launched.

The pending vote Monday on acceptance of the legislation is one of two key votes that will be cast that day. The other will be on the override, which has been pegged at \$255,000.

The \$8.56 million budget that was being considered by the town meeting last night will only be sustained with an override of that amount.

Although town meeting representatives were still far from the end of the warrant by press time, they had already gone past the tax levy limit and were into override country.

LEE, continued on B4

Administrator funding backed by Lee meeting

LEE, from B1

It was at that point that one of the representatives, William E. Noonan, raised sharp objections. "I don't think we should do this," he said.

Bean concurs

Selectman William D. Bean, who is not seeking re-election and was attending his last town meeting wearing a selectman's hat, agreed. He had already apprised representatives that officers of the Massachusetts Municipal Association had told a meeting of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association the previous night that the state is in grave financial difficulty and that towns "should not put all your faith in the local aid figures on the cherry sheets."

Cherry sheets, so named because of their color, list local aid and other reimbursements and charges affecting towns each year.

The state's fiscal condition is bleak, said Bean, plumping for a budget without an override.

If voters reject the override, said Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask, "we can reconsider the administrator's salary — and many other things."

In simple terms, the town meeting by a little before 10 p.m. had passed the routine budget items for day-to-day operation of the town and school system. Still ahead were special articles dealing with such things as bridge repair, roof replacement on the new wing at Lee Central School and the like.

Forty-five of the 61 representatives were present for meeting, held in the gymnasium of the Central School. Non-voting town residents — who can comment on articles but not cast votes on them — were conspicuous by their absence. There were a few more than 30 scattered in the

rows of chairs set up for the purpose.

The debate on the administrator was pithy.

Francis D. Foley Jr. of District VI made probably the longest statement. "With the number of people who work for the town, no coordination is made of them. It is a time when we're spending nearly \$9 million, and it's time the town had a professional aspect, a professional person who would coordinate better, work with the state better."

Deidre Consolati, a representative from District V, saw the administrator form of government as "an investment in the future and a guarantee of our survival." She said she found most residents in her district favored the administrator.

But Dolores Loring, from the same district, said it seemed to her that "we are creating quite a few jobs here tonight. I don't think we need more."

At the end, Martin H. Deely, a District VI representative who favors hiring an administrator, wondered aloud "if we can send some kind of message to voters as they go behind the curtain, some sense of the crisis we're facing, so they will support us."

Nearly all speakers conceded that if the override fails, there will be considerable budget chopping before resubmission of a new spending plan, which would require another town meeting.



Photo by Gina Gold

The fire-gutted home of the Duponts

Burned-Out Couple Rebuilds Their Lives

By Gina Gold

LEE—The striking lavender and orange house on the corner of Robert and East Center Streets stands gutted and charred after a blaze ripped through the seven-room, wooden structure early last Friday morning. Lee and Lenox firefighters arrived at the scene at 1:00 a.m. to find homeowners Robert and Rosemarie Dupont huddled together on their porch roof in 38 degree weather.

It is believed that the fire originated in the cellar from an electrical short. The state fire marshal's office in Pittsfield conducted the investigation. Firefighters worked throughout the morning to control the fire. The house, built in 1901, had caved in.

According to Rosemarie Dupont she and her husband were asleep when they heard a tremendous noise downstairs. "There was a racket, I thought someone was breaking into the house," she says. Robert Du-

pont tried to descend the staircase but was thwarted by billowing smoke. Rosemarie Dupont groped her way through the smoke, "I tripped twice," she says. The first time, I fell down and pulled myself up. The second time, I lay down and part of me kept saying, let me sleep, I just want to sleep. I don't know why, but I made myself get up. I heard my husband calling to me and finally, I reached out the window and felt his hand."

The pair climbed through the bedroom window to the porch roof where a Lee policeman saw them and told them to jump. Robert Dupont had recently suffered a head injury in a fall from a tree, his wife refused to let him jump. A ladder was found providing safe escape, no one was injured.

The brightly-colored Dupont home was headquarters for Dupont Painting Inc, a contracting business. The Duponts have lived on Robert Street for 20 years. The house, trucks and a nearby birdhouse all painted the same boisterous colors, making it a neighborhood landmark.

Rosemarie Dupont says

Town records show the house and land assessed at \$110,400. Rosemarie Dupont says the house is insured and that they plan to rebuild a modular home in its place. The couple is staying in a rental property that they own in East Lee. Several collections were lost in the fire including 5,000 cookbooks, cartoon paraphernalia and an extensive collection of Elvis Presley tapes and memorabilia. The couple also lost a bright orange 1976 Corvete.

Rosemarie Dupont says that she and her husband are happy to have come out of the incident unscathed. "You feel a bit like an alien without things like wallets, contact lenses, and I.D. but we're fortunate." They promise to keep up the tradition and paint their new home lavender and orange. "We'll build a bigger and better Lee landmark," Rosemarie Dupont says.

Rosemarie Dupont says

Lee town meeting cuts back override request to \$226,000

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — For the first time in several years, Lee's annual town meeting was confined to a single evening Thursday as town meeting representatives adopted an \$8.5 million budget that will necessitate voter approval on Monday of the town's first Proposition 2½ override.

By virtue of some whittling here and there, as well as elimination of a Town Hall secretarial position that generated the most controversy of the evening, the town meeting representatives brought down to about \$226,000 the amount needed above the town's tax-levy limit to balance the budget in the fiscal year starting July 1.

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee had estimated the town would need \$255,000 extra and have included that sum on Monday's election ballot for the voters' approval.

If voters say yes to the override, the town will still be able to appropriate the lesser sum, \$226,000. Approval of the override would only provide a ceiling above which appropriations based on the property tax could not rise.

But the town meeting representatives and the handful of spectators in the Lee Central School gymnasium heard some sobering words about budgets and appropriations during the evening. Several later agreed they could be brought back into session later on to chop apart what they had just put together.

Outgoing Selectman William D. Bean said Massachusetts Municipal Association officers have been warning selectmen across the state that local aid may be cut more than the Weld administration has already projected.

Assistant Town Clerk Patricia D. Carlino, who is also acting town treasurer, said a number of town treasurers at a recent seminar heard much the same mes-

Town meeting to be televised

LEE — Lee townspeople who want to find out what happened at the annual town meeting Thursday and gain insights into budget and town administrator issues can watch most of the meeting on local-access television tomorrow and Monday.

School Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said the meeting will be shown on Channel 11 on Century Berkshire Cable Television tomorrow from 6 to 9 p.m. and Monday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The town election will be held from 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday. Two of the ballot's referendum questions ask for voter approval of a budget override and of the legislative act establishing a Selectmen/administrator form of government in Lee.

did approve the same salary for the combined post of assistant town clerk and treasurer. That position's job description is about the same as the secretarial one.

The issue was exacerbated by a longstanding disagreement between Carlino, who had asked the Selectmen to create the secretarial job last winter, and Selectmen Bean and Joseph F. DuPont, who had initially balked at it. By retaining the salary for the assistant clerk-treasurer post, the town meeting retained a position whose occupant the eventual town clerk will appoint, not the Selectmen.

Sees an obstacle

Carlino said she could not appoint Walsh or anyone else the assistant town clerk and treasurer because she herself already holds that title, even though she has been the acting treasurer since the retirement of John J. Nagle last January.

DuPont at one point Thursday night sought to obtain a guarantee that Walsh would be named to the assistant's post, once it becomes vacant, but Moderator Toole ruled the attempt out of the realm of the town meetings' authority.

Whether Walsh, who lives in Pittsfield, could be named assistant town clerk and treasurer ran into conflicting opinions. Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully yesterday said he had researched the matter and found no residency requirement for an assistant town clerk and only a very broad one for an assistant treasurer: the person must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the commonwealth.

The clouds around the matter may clear somewhat after Monday's election when the new town clerk and treasurer will be chosen. Carlino is running for both positions, as is Timothy O. Taylor. In recent years, both posts have been held by a single person.

Selectman's race leads list of five Lee election contests

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — There will be five contests on Lee's annual election ballot Monday, with races for the lone selectman's seat and for town clerk and treasurer generating the most interest.

And in the wake of Lee's annual town meeting Thursday, the issue confronting whoever is elected clearly will be keeping a tight rein on expenditures and gauging whether townspeople are willing to do without accustomed town services.

The most recent estimates from the governor's office that local aid may be headed for another substantial cut could force the town to raise more money from property taxes or, conversely, cut services and personnel, said Martin H. Deely, one of the candidates for the Board of Selectmen.

He will face Gordon D. Bailey in the Monday balloting, which will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Senior Center in the Airoidi Building on Railroad Street.

They are vying for the seat held by outgoing member William D. Bean, completing his sixth year on the board.

Deely, 57, is a former selectman who served two terms on the board, from, 1971 through 1977, after having served three years on the Planning Board. He is a Lee native who graduated from Williams College and the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. Before enrolling at Wharton, he had served in the U.S. Air Force and was discharged as a captain. He is president of Lee Lime Corp., a family-owned business.

Active in community

He has taken an active role in the community over the years, headed a United Community Fund campaign when Lee had its own community chest organization, served on the Housing Authority and the Housatonic River Watershed Association and was a incorporator of the Lee Savings Bank.

He and his wife, attorney Jessie Doyle Deely, are parents of three children and live on Pease Terrace.

Bailey, 37, a member of the Planning Board, is a building contractor whose company is called Grey Haven Inc. It is an agent for Timberpeg East Inc., which Bailey says is the region's largest manufacturer of post-and-beam buildings.

He came to Lee in 1966 when his father, C. William Bailey, a minister, became professor of English and speech at the former Berkshire Christian College in Lenox. Gordon Bailey graduated from Lee High School and Berkshire Community College. He is a Mason and a past master of the Evening Star Lodge in Lee. He took part in 1987 in organizing a "grand masters' run" from Pittsfield to Boston to raise money for DARE [Drug Abuse Resistance Education] programs.

Bailey and his wife, the former Jane Szwczak, have three daughters and live on Route 102. Deely, a Democratic nominee, says the Selectmen have an op-



Martin H. Deely
Craig F. Walker



Gordon D. Bailey
Gerald B. O'Connor

portunity — and a challenge — to guide the town through some financially rough waters in the months ahead. "It's a time," he said, "when you've got to be the best you can be at managing."

Bailey, a Republican nominee who also won a ballot berth as an independent candidate, feels the Board of Selectmen has been viewed in a negative light in recent months and that he can help create a positive image as a new face with good communication skills.

Two of the other contests are for town clerk and treasurer, separate offices but traditionally held by the same person.

Patricia D. Carlino, who was assistant town clerk and treasurer for eight years until the retirement of the former longtime clerk and treasurer, John J. Nagle, last January, is in the race for both positions. She has won the Democratic nomination but is also on the ballot with nomination papers.

Also seeking the two posts is Timothy O. Taylor, a member of the town's appointive Board of Public Works since 1979, who has won Republican endorsement. A

graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in electrical engineering, he has worked at GE and now is an independent business consultant.

Since Nagle's retirement, Carlino has been acting treasurer while remaining assistant clerk. Competing for a five-year seat on the Planning Board are incumbent Sallie Kate Kish, owner

with her husband, L. George Kish, of the Black Swan Inn, and Aldo V. Pascucci, a retired Main Street merchant.

Housing seat

Competing for a five-year seat on the Housing Authority are Frank V. McCarthy and Rosemary Bush Hughes.

For other seats — two assessors, four constables, 18 town members, four constables, 18 town members of the Board of Health and Community Development Corp. — there are no contests.

Town Moderator Joseph M. Toole is running for re-election unopposed.

Also on the ballot are three referendum questions, two of which have make-or-break power over key town meeting appropriations.

These are questions seeking acceptance of the 1990 legislation establishing a selectmen-administrator form of government, and approval of a \$255,000 override of tax-limiting Proposition 2½ for the purpose of funding the town's general operating budget in fiscal 1992.

The third question, of less moment than the other two, asks if the town will turn to a single non-partisan caucus for the nomination of candidates for annual election. It is on the ballot more as a courtesy than anything, for it is not binding. Only the town meeting has authority to make the move, and the town meeting Thursday night chose to pass it over.

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Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Helene Sohn-Lombardo gives Oliver a kiss and a bottle while Vincent Lombardo tends to Daniel.

Romanian twins make move to Lee

By Mary-Jane Tichenor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — To Vincent Lombardo and his wife, Helene Sohn-Lombardo, of 80 Franklin St., the twin babies they adopted in Romania are priceless.

Two weeks ago, they brought the infants, Daniel and Oliver, home to Lee after a five-week stay at the Lebadia Hotel in Bucharest. The children were born Jan. 10.

"I don't want to put a price tag on them," said Sohn-Lombardo Thursday, seated in her living room with Daniel in her arms. "They were not bought for a VCR," she said, referring to allegations made on a recent television program.

She was giving Daniel a bottle and, every once in a while, a hug and a kiss. Her father, Kenneth Sohn, and his wife, Edith, visiting from Pompano Beach, Fla., had charge of Oliver for the moment.

Fees for adoption range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 and increasingly include a payment to

the birth mother, according to March 24 article in The New York Times Magazine.

The same article also said that about 3,000 children were adopted out of Romania in 1990, and 1,300 adoptions to the United States had been completed or were under way in the first two months of this year.

The plight of Romanian children came to light after the execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu on Christmas 1989. During his 23-year reign, he attempted to increase his country's work force. Women were expected to give birth to five children each; contraceptives were banned and abortions outlawed.

Romania has had more than 600 state institutions filled with an estimated 130,000 children. But the supply of adoptable young babies is dwindling. About half of the babies coming to America are not from institutions, says the American consul in Bucharest.

The Lombardos, who observed their second wedding anniversary last Tuesday, the sec-

ond marriage for both, moved to Lee from New York two years ago, with the idea of raising a family.

"It's a nice place for kids to grow up," said Lombardo.

Sohn-Lombardo, 40, a former real estate broker, is sales manager of Canyon Ranch in Lenox and is on leave until Sept. 1. Lombardo, 45, is a former dress manufacturer and more recently has worked as an executive recruiter. The couple have chosen to adopt rather than have children themselves.

They did research with various agencies, worked with Wide Horizons of Waltham and went through the normal adoption process, including a home study.

Sohn-Lombardo, who followed up any lead and made hundreds of telephone calls, said that through an agency in Minneapolis, Minn., they learned of a child finder, Dawn Bonn, who was based in Bucharest.

TWINS, continued on B5

City & Town

The Berkshire Eagle, Sunday, May 12, 1991 — B5

Lee couple bring Romanian twins home

■ TWINS, from A1

"She's a fabulous lady, who knows everything, cleans and dresses up the babies and brings them to you," Sohn-Lombardo said.

Bonn works with an attorney and, in 15 years in both Latin America and Romania has placed more than 3,000 children, Lombardo said.

The couple described the whole experience as "really quite wonderful." They left here for Bucharest on March 8 and stayed in the hotel with Bonn and 17 to 20 other families — Americans, Canadians, Italians, Israelis — who were adopting a total of 30 or 40 children.

Communal feeling

"There was a real communal feeling," said Sohn-Lombardo. "We really helped each other and we loved every child there."

The families shared what they had for a feast for Passover and Easter, babysat for each other and had song fests. They even had a baby aerobics class in the wide hallways, she said.

There were not a lot of rich people, she said. "They were people who had begged, borrowed and mortgaged a lot of property to give these poor children a home."

Language wasn't a problem.

"I speak the language, or close to it," said Lombardo, who is also fluent in Italian, "and Helene speaks French, and almost everybody speaks English."

They left the hotel only three or four times. "The city was very polluted, and we hated to go out and take the babies," Sohn-Lombardo said.

In addition, department stores had little to sell, and people stood in lines to buy food. It had "a postwar Europe feeling," she said.

They lived on their own supplies, which they brought from home, supplementing them with pastries and bread.

The couple had only a few weeks' notice. They engaged a pediatrician and dentist in anticipation.

"We actually thought we were going for girls," she said. They also expected toddlers rather than infants.

"The two children had to be siblings, according to our agency's requirement," she said.

When they received word about the twins, Sohn-Lombardo thought that sounded like good fun. "To my mind, they were born the day I got them; they had very little opportunity prior to that," she said.



Craig F. Walker

Helene and Vincent Lombardo pose with Oliver, left, and Daniel, their adopted twins.

"It's not as you read about it," she added. "We didn't go combing the countryside."

TV crew on hand

The television crew from 20/20 was at her hotel while she was there, she said, and a lot of people in her hotel could have been interviewed for very positive stories. She can't understand why they focused on the negative.

The experience was not without stress, the sort that you have when you do your income tax, Sohn-Lombardo said. It was caused by the paperwork and the red tape involved in adopting babies in a foreign country.

The couple's Romanian lawyer translated the documents to complete the adoption there. They'll have to go through the process again in this country and, later, have the babies naturalized as American citizens.

The couple arrived with 10 duffel bags crammed with supplies, formula for a month, 600 diapers, clothing, even a hot plate.

The children were delivered wrapped tightly in layers of cotton cloth, five or six hats and blankets. They had no diapers and were very dirty. Bonn cleaned them up.

The babies were born to a young unmarried couple in their 20s in a town near the Black Sea. They and their 2½-year-old sister were being cared for by grandparents.

The father, an agricultural worker, earned the equivalent of \$20 a month, the adoptive parents said. "Most of these people have no electricity, water or heat," said Sohn-Lombardo. She has let it be known that if times are hard for the grandparents, Sohn-Lombardo will bring the sister here to be reunited with her brothers.

The twins — fraternal, rather than identical — weighed 3 or 4 pounds at birth, 5 or 6 pounds when they were 2 months old.

Daniel now weighs 7 pounds, 10 ounces and his brother, 9 pounds. They're doing great, according to their pediatrician, Dr. Matthew Sadof in Pittsfield.

Daniel became sick with a high fever and, after the 12-hour plane trip from Bucharest to New York, he was hospitalized in New Jersey. He's fully recovered now.

When the family of four arrived, their friends and neighbors had strung balloons in the house, stocked the refrigerator and fed the cats.

"It's a really special experience to have such a fabulous community," said Sohn-Lombardo.

As she spoke, the father of 15-year-old twins that she had met the day before in town delivered a pair of colorful balls for her twins.

Lee voters OK administrator, spurn override

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee voters narrowly approved legislation yesterday that creates the first full-time professional administrator's post under the Board of Selectmen. At the same time, they gunned down in no uncertain terms an override of the tax-limiting law that might have paid for the hiring of an administrator.

The decisions came during yesterday's annual election, at which former Selectman Martin H. Deely was elected to fill the seat vacated by Selectman Wil-

liam D. Bean, who chose not to run for re-election.

The Selectmen's race was one of five contests that in one case unseated an incumbent. Planning Board member Sallie Kate Kish, who was seeking re-election to a five-year term. She lost to a retired storekeeper, Aldo V. Pascucci, who, running for the first time, got 708 votes to her 356.

Deely received 757 votes to 432 votes for his opponent, Gordon D. Bailey, a member of the Planning Board who was making his first run for selectman.

Patricia D. Carlino, who for eight

years was assistant town clerk and assistant treasurer and has been acting treasurer since Jan. 8, won election to the clerk's and the treasurer's offices outright with votes of 873 and 839, respectively.

She was running against Timothy O. Taylor, a longtime member of the Board of Public Works, who received 326 and 356 votes for the two offices, in that order.

Both Carlino and Taylor were running for the two offices together, a practice established a number of years ago by John J. Nagle, who held the offices for

more than 20 years and retired Jan. 8 because of poor health.

Frank V. McCarthy won the contested seat on the Housing Authority, 569 votes to 488 for Rosemary Bush Hughes.

The acceptance of the legislation establishing a selectmen-administrator form of government in Lee for the first time was a mild surprise when judged against the vote to kill a tax override that, if approved, would have enabled the Selectmen to begin promptly to recruit the town's first administrator.

LEE, continued on B3

Lee voters elect Deely as selectman

■ LEE, from B1

The administrator legislation, Chapter 471 of the Acts of 1990, was approved on a close vote of 481-467. The override, however, was decisively blown out of the water with 729 votes against it and only 225 in favor.

For proponents of the administrator form of government, the election was a clear success, even if a cliff-hanging one. But in killing hope of an override, the voters were telling the Selectmen and Finance Committee to go back to the drawing board and chop at least \$226,000 out of the budget that was passed by the town meeting last week.

Another meeting needed

This will entail another town meeting to approve whatever the foregoing bodies recommend. One of the special articles that helped push the budget over the tax levy limit dictated by Proposition 2½ was the \$49,500 set aside for the salary and recruiting expenses connected with an administrator.

The town now may have to wait a year.

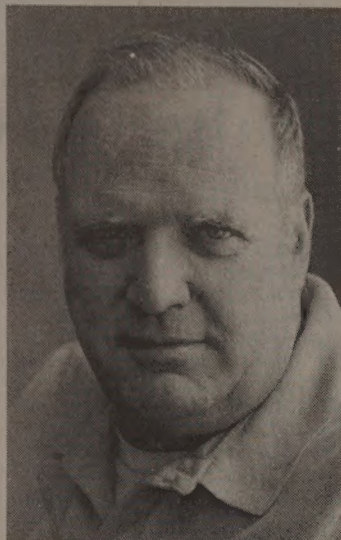
A third referendum question, whether to adopt a non-partisan nominating caucus to replace the two party caucuses now employed, was approved 449-406, but it is non-binding and is moot anyway because the town meeting, which has the authority to adopt such a policy, had refused

to act on it last week.

Election results follow:

Moderator (Elect 1, 1 year)	
Joseph M. Toole*	981
Selectman (Elect 1, 3 years)	
Gordon D. Bailey	432
Martin H. Deely	757
Town clerk (Elect 1, 3 years)	
Patricia D. Carlino	873
Timothy O. Taylor	326
Treasurer (Elect 1, 3 years)	
Patricia D. Carlino	839
Timothy O. Taylor	356
School Committee (Elect 2, 3 years)	
Judith L. Olds*	789
David K. Chivers	491
Assessor (Elect 1, 3 years)	
William F. Derrick*	928
Edward F. Murray*	823
Planning Board (Elect 1, 5 years)	
Sallie Kate Kish*	356
Aldo Pascucci	708
Housing Authority (Elect 1, 5 years)	
Rosemary Bush Hughes	488
Frank V. McCarthy	569
Board of Health (Elect 1, 3 years)	
Karen Norton	793
Community Development Corp. (Elect 3, 3 years)	
David J. Bruce	634
Francis D. Foley Jr.*	693
Robert W. Lester*	578
Constables (Elect 4, 3 years)	
Edward J. Herlihy*	548
John L. Piacquadro*	689
Pauline E. Pollard*	730
John J. Wheeler*	748

* Denotes incumbent.



Martin H. Deely

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Preservation has its day at Lee town meeting

While other issues may be more controversial and cause greater financial problems, the most evenly divided vote on the town-meeting floor in Lee last week involved historic preservation.

Patricia Carlino placed an article on the Town Warrant requesting \$7,000 to pre-

serve the town clerk's records dating back to the first town meeting in Lee in 1777. The books are deteriorating rapidly and need to be treated, she says.

No one disputed the need for preserving the books, but several town representatives questioned whether the expense should be a priority at a time when Lee taxpayers are being financially stretched. A motion was made to lower the town's expense to \$1,000.

Moderator Joseph M. Toole -- who has preserved and restored the historic St. Mary's School into an elegant bed-and-breakfast -- called for a vote on the \$1,000 figure. The vote was 20-20, leaving the passage or rejection of the article up to Toole.

"I'll vote against the amendment to make it \$1,000," he said. "I believe very strongly in preservation." Town representatives then voted 26-16 in favor of the \$7,000 figure.

Tyringham man buys Lee inn at auction

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Glenn W. Larson of Cooper's Creek Road, Tyringham, was the successful bidder Friday for The Place, a former restaurant and inn at 51 Park St. that was auctioned in a mortgagee's foreclosure sale.

Larson, whose parents, Russell and Jutta Larson, once owned the Pilgrim Motor Inn on Housatonic Street in Lee, could not be reached to talk about possible plans for the inn. His mother said he would be away for two weeks.

Larson's bid of \$183,000 for the 1.9-acre parcel and the two wood-frame buildings on it topped those of two other bidders, First National Bank of the Berkshires, represented by a vice president, Joseph Santora, and attorney Jessie Doyle Deely, who submitted a bid for an unnamed client.

Bank held mortgage

The First National Bank of the Berkshires, formerly the Lee National Bank, was the mortgagee whose foreclosure action led to the sale. Deputy Sheriff Edward J. Cristiano of Lenox was the auctioneer.

Besides the main house that contains the restaurant dining rooms and cocktail lounge, there is a six-room dwelling at the rear of the property that contains a three-room apartment and three separate bedrooms.

There are four bedrooms, two with private baths, in the main house, which is L-shaped and has an extensive veranda along its east side. One of the two dining rooms has a fireplace, as does the room used as a bar and lounge.

The auction notice calls the building Victorian, but a previous owner maintains that it was built in 1823 and, therefore, predates the Victorian era. Some of its detailed moldings and frosted and stained-glass windows are considered Victorian, however.

Purchased in 1989

The Place got its name in 1989 when it was acquired and refurbished under that name by partners Richard Rice and Charles Petrie of New York City, who bought it for \$325,000. By the time of the sale Friday, its ownership was under a corporate name: Broome, French, Miller & Rice Inc.

Larson has 20 days from the date of the sale to pay the balance of the bid price. He put down a \$10,000 deposit, a requirement met by the other bidders as well.

Larson also put in the winning bid of \$2,300 on the remaining furnishings and equipment in the building that were auctioned by Cristiano as a single sale item.

Before 1989, the restaurant had been called The Inn at Lee.

Cozzaglio named Lee school principal

The Lee School Committee last week unanimously appointed Stephen A. Cozzaglio principal of Lee Central School. Cozzaglio has been vice principal of the school for many years and was named acting building supervisor after longtime principal Ray Kavey retired last month.

The School Committee interviewed Cozzaglio and Warren Reynolds, the school system psychologist, for the position. School Superintendent Henry Zukowski recommended Cozzaglio's appointment.

"As the acting building supervisor, he's put in programs," Zukowski says. "I'm very impressed. He's taken over. There's

no other way to put it."

Cozzaglio is working on a new developmental-reading program using computers to assist in reading programs, Zukowski says.

Cozzaglio's appointment marks the third week in a row in which a south-county school committee appointed an in-house candidate for a prominent administrative position. In Lenox, Bruce Walker was named Lenox Memorial High School principal. Linda Day was named school superintendent in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

"We've had pretty good luck with in-house candidates," Zukowski says. "One of the things people don't want is for the schools to be directed away from the community."

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The diner has occupied the same space between the laundromat and the art-and-crafts stores through three different owners. This is the first time the place has been shut down at night since "Happy" Navin opened the establishment there in 1939. The diner has always been closed on Sundays.

"It just kind of makes you doubt what the government is saying about things getting any better in this part of the county," said a mental health worker who sat on one of the 14 red vinyl covered stools and enjoyed his Spanish omelette, white toast and homefries.

"When you pull out one of the pillars that's supplying good food at reasonable prices, you know things are getting really bad."

Economics set aside — the news isn't all that bad because

"They certainly are interesting. It's loud and it's crowded and everybody wants everything right away," said Buffy Garvin, adding that she was raised on Joe's food because her mother worked there while she was growing up.

The first big rush of patrons comes shortly after the 3-to-11 shift ends at the mills, nursing homes and other area institutions. The second hit comes shortly after "last call" at local — and sometimes not-so-local — drinking establishments.

"I used to drive my friends here all the way from Westfield when I was in college," said Dan Kinney, who has long frequented Joe's during his time at Lee High School and Westfield State College.

Frank explained that some-



Photo by Christine Burns
Twins Bill (left) and John (right) Higgins of Pittsfield are two of Joe's Sorrentino's (center) regular customers at his Center Street diner.

